ATLAS
JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY
JOURNEY INTO
MYSTERY
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NO. 15
10¢
"TILL DEATH US DO PART!"

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CUDDLE UP IN YOUR COMFY CHAIR, CHUM, AND FEAST YOUR OPTICS ON OUR FIRST WEIRDIE! YOU MAY HAVE READ A LOT OF STORIES ABOUT PEOPLE WHO HAVE SOLD THEIR SOULS TO THE DEVIL! WELL, **DANNY** LAUGHED AT THE WHOLE IDEA...BUT HE LAUGHED **TOO SOON!**

SATAN CAN WAIT

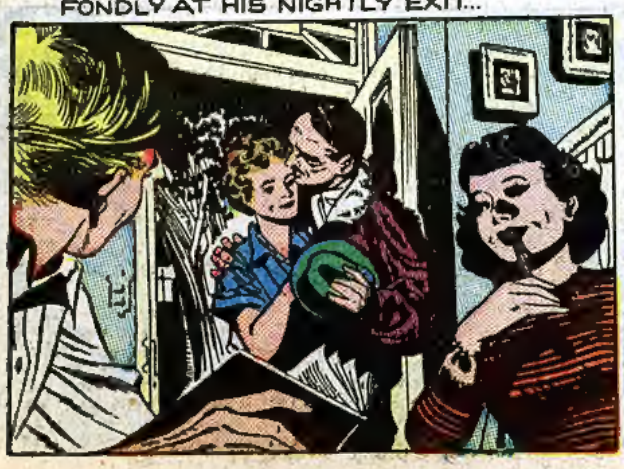
JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #8

THIS IS DANNY, A HARD-WORKING BUT HAPPY MAN WITHOUT A WORRY IN THE WORLD! IF YOU SHOULD STEP UP TO HIM AND WARN HIM THAT HE'S HEADING FOR TERRIBLE TROUBLE, HE'D AMIABLY TELL YOU TO "GO TO THE DEVIL!" WE WHO CAN SEE THAT SHADOWY FORM LURKING BEHIND HIM KNOW HOW PROPHETIC THAT REMARK WOULD BE!

A SPINE-TINGLING JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY!

Paul Reinman

HE HAD JUST LEFT HIS SMALL BUT COMFORTABLE HOME. SUPPER WAS OVER AND HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN LOOKED AT HIM WITH LOVE AND RESPECT, SMILING FONDLY AT HIS NIGHTLY EXIT...

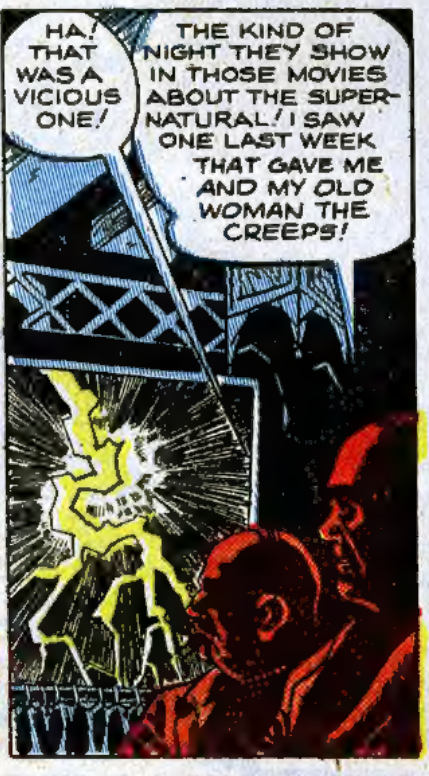


HE TURNED INTO THE STREET, NODDING PLEASANTLY AT HIS NEIGHBORS. A GOOD-HUMORED, QUIET MAN WHOM EVERYBODY LIKED...

HE WALKED TOWARD THE BAR AT THE CORNER AS HE DID EVERY NIGHT. THIS WAS DANNY'S ONE PLEASURE...HIS NIGHTLY GLASS OF BEER AND THE TALK THAT WENT WITH IT, WITH OLD FRIENDS...

RAIN SUDDENLY SLANTED DOWN AND WIND WHIPPED AT DANNY AS HE PUSHED THROUGH THE DOORS INTO THE DIMLY LIT INTERIOR...

THEY WAITED FOR HIM AS ALWAYS...FAMILIAR FACES AND THE QUIET CONTENTMENT OF OLD FRIENDS...


HA! THAT WAS A VICIOUS ONE!
THE KIND OF NIGHT THEY SHOW IN THOSE MOVIES ABOUT THE SUPER-NATURAL! I SAW ONE LAST WEEK THAT GAVE ME AND MY OLD WOMAN THE CREEPS!

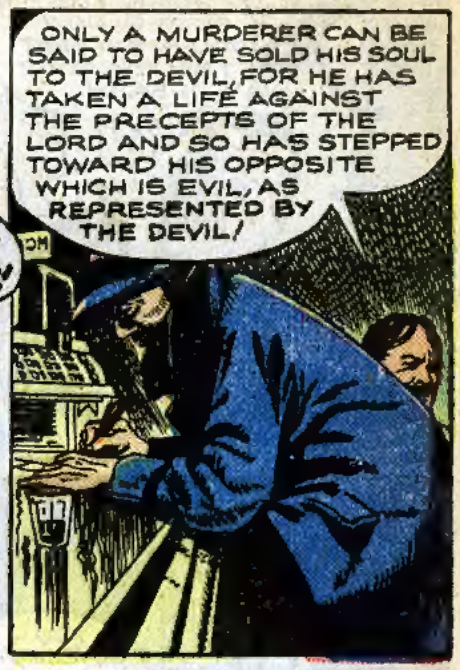
I WOULDN'T SPEND MY MONEY TO SEE ONE OF THOSE THINGS...A LOT OF BUNK!
OH, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT! HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S BUNK?
JIM'S RIGHT! STRANGE THINGS HAPPEN ALL THE TIME!
BAR

I'LL LEAVE IT TO DANNY! DO YOU BELIEVE THAT STUFF ABOUT THE DEVIL COMING TO EARTH AN' MAKIN' BARGAINS WITH HUMANS?
COME NOW, WHO CAN SAY THAT IT AIN'T POSSIBLE?
I CAN AN' I WILL!

THIS WAS THE KIND OF THING DANNY LOVED, THE AMIABLE ARGUMENT, THE RESPECT THESE OLD FRIENDS HAD FOR HIS WORD! HE THOUGHT SO DEEPLY OF HIS ANSWER, THAT HE FAILED TO NOTICE THE FIGURE THAT CAME IN OUT OF THE STORM...

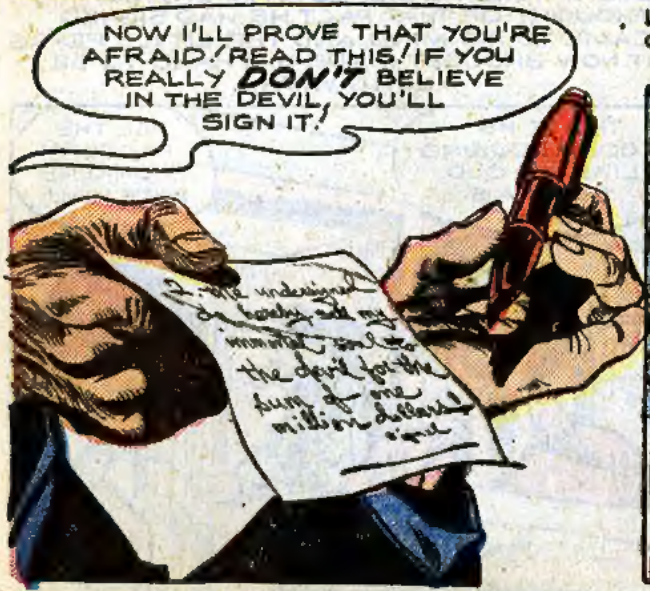
BUT YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT SATAN COUD COME TO EARTH AND A MAN COULD SELL HIS SOUL TO THE DEVIL?
SATAN IS MAN'S NAME FOR EVIL! NO CRIME COULD BE SO GREAT THAT ONE COULD SAY THE CRIMINAL HAS MADE A PACT WITH SATAN... EXCEPT MURDER!

THE SCRATCHING OF A PEN COULD BE HEARD IN THE SILENCE AS DANNY PAUSED TO PICK HIS WORDS...


ONLY A MURDERER CAN BE SAID TO HAVE SOLD HIS SOUL TO THE DEVIL, FOR HE HAS TAKEN A LIFE AGAINST THE PRECEPTS OF THE LORD AND SO HAS STEPPED TOWARD HIS OPPOSITE WHICH IS EVIL, AS REPRESENTED BY THE DEVIL!

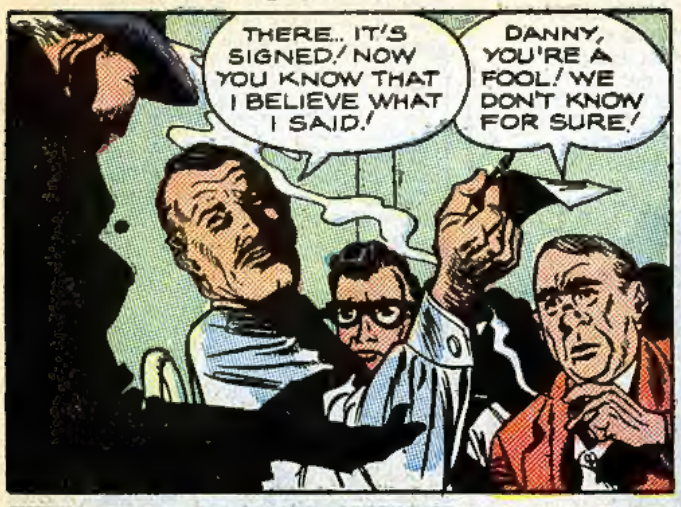
THEN A NEW VOICE ENTERED THE CONVERSATION...

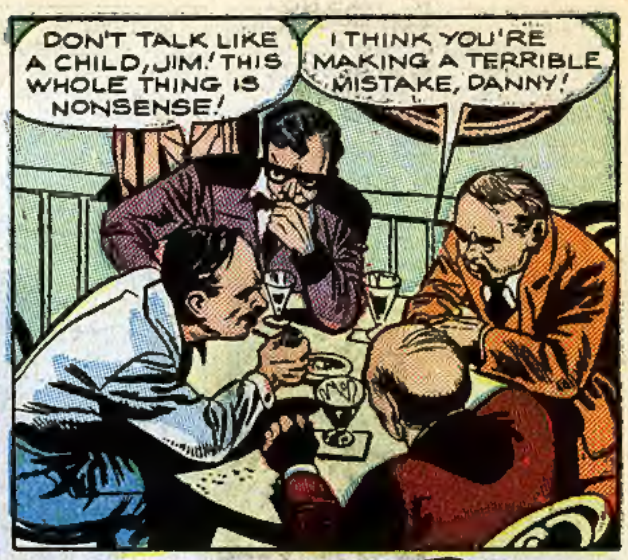
I'LL PROVE WHAT I'VE SAID! WHAT DO YOU NEED MOST IN THE WORLD?
WELL, I'VE GOT MY HEALTH, A FINE FAMILY, GOOD FRIENDS! OF COURSE A MAN COULD ALWAYS DO WITH A BIT OF MONEY!



LIGHTNING LASHED THE NIGHT SKY, THUNDER GRUMBLED AS THOUGH REPEATING DANNY'S WORDS TO THE BLACKNESS...

BUT DANNY LAUGHED, TOOK THE PEN AND SIGNED...





DANNY CHUCKLED ALL THE WAY HOME! WHEN HE ENTERED THE HOUSE...

DANNY, I WAS JUST COMING DOWN TO GET YOU! I'VE HAD A CALL FROM PORTSMOUTH... YOUR FATHER DIED YESTERDAY AND LEFT THE FACTORY TO YOU! IT'S WORTH A QUARTER OF A MILLION DOLLARS!

DANNY WENT TO PORTSMOUTH AND TOOK OVER HIS FATHER'S FACTORY! NOW HE WAS A BOSS AND THIS BROUGHT ITS OWN WORRIES WITH IT! HIS QUIET GOOD HUMOR LEFT HIM...

TIME PASSED! DANNY'S WEALTH BECAME GREATER, AND HE BECAME MORE IRRITABLE! EVERY TIME HE SIGNED A PAPER, THE THOUGHT OF THAT PACT HE HAD SIGNED CAME TO HIS MIND, AND THE LITTLE FEARS IT NOW BROUGHT MADE HIM HARD TO GET ALONG WITH...

DANNY AGED TERRIBLY! CONTENTMENT WAS NO LONGER IN HIM! HE HAD NO FRIENDS AND HIS FAMILY HAD GROWN AWAY FROM HIM! THEN ONE NIGHT, WHEN HE RETURNED TO HIS MANSION ON THE HILL...

DANNY OPENED THE ENVELOPE! IT WAS FROM HIS WIFE! SHE HAD LEFT HIM AND TAKEN THE CHILDREN WITH HER...

OUTSIDE, LIGHTNING FORKED ACROSS THE SKY! IT WAS JUST SUCH A NIGHT AS THIS A YEAR AGO WHEN HE'D SIGNED THAT PAPER IN THE BAR! HE OPENED THE AUDITOR'S REPORT...

I'M WORTH EXACTLY... A MILLION DOLLARS! THAT PACT... IT SAID I'D SELL MY SOUL FOR A MILLION DOLLARS!
I RANG, BUT NO ONE ANSWERED, SO I JUST WALKED IN! I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND!

YOU!
YOU REMEMBER THE GAG I PULLED THAT NIGHT... THE PACT YOU SIGNED? HERE IT IS? I KEPT IT FOR LAUGHS! I HEARD ABOUT YOUR BIG FACTORY AND I JUST LOST MY JOB SO I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU COULD FIND A PLACE FOR ME!

JUST A GAG! ALL THE MISERY, THE FEAR, THE LOSS OF EVERYTHING HE HELD DEAR... BECAUSE OF A GAG, A PRACTICAL JOKE! AN INSANE FURY TOOK HOLD OF DANNY, A RAGE THAT DROVE HIM TO VIOLENCE...

HE STOOD OVER THE BODY! A PAPER FLUTTERED TO THE FLOOR... AND DANNY REMEMBERED...

"ONLY A MURDERER CAN BE SAID TO HAVE SOLD HIS SOUL TO THE DEVIL"! I SAID IT THAT NIGHT! SO THE GAG HAS TURNED TO EARNEST... THE PACT HAS BEEN KEPT!

DANNY STRAIGHTENED UP! HE WALKED TO THE DOOR! THE STORM SEEMED TO POUNCE AS HE WENT OUT...

HE WALKED INTO THE RAGING NIGHT AND A CLOUD, BLACKER THAN ALL THE OTHERS, HOVERED LOW OVER HIM! THEN DANNY DISAPPEARED INTO THE DARKNESS... FOREVER!

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN WEIRD STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER ATLAS

KILLER IN THE HOUSE

"CAPTAIN FLAHERTY speaking. What's the trouble?"

The voice that Capt. Flaherty heard over the desk telephone was high pitched with excitement. He tried for a moment to understand what was being said.

"Look here, mister, I can't understand you. Please talk louder and SLOWER. Now, what is it?"

The voice became a little more understandable. "It's like this. My house has been robbed... well, not robbed, but searched. When I came home from work I found my wife looking at the mess that she found when she returned from shopping. The drawers had been gone thru. Please come."

Capt. Flaherty got the name and address of the excited man, and sent a man over to investigate. Within a half hour, Jerry Thorne was knocking on the door numbered 221 Elm Street.

When he showed his badge, Jerry was ushered into the house, and the man who asked him to come in hadn't exaggerated when he said there was a mess in his house. Everything was upset. Books were opened and strewn across the floor. The carpeting had been ripped up; the lining in the drapes had been slit; the wallpaper had been torn away in almost every room.

Thorne wiped his forehead after surveying the mess. "Wow," was all he could say.

Claude Miller, the man who had phoned, was still upset. "Is that all you can say? Find out who did this. I demand you find the guilty person."

"Fingerprints . . . first we'll get the fingerprints. But before that, Mr. Miller, suppose you tell me just what it was that the prowler was obviously looking for. Apparently he was looking for something special . . . and he certainly did a good job of looking."

"But not good enough," Mr. Miller smiled. "Come over here away from the living room and I'll tell you something." Jerry and Mr. Miller walked into the hallway, and Mr. Miller looked around nervously as he grasped Jerry's arm.

"Money...I inherited twenty-five thousand dollars from an uncle who died in Boston a few months ago. I just came back from there with the money, and had a special cache made in one of the walls for all of it. My wife," and he said this looking around as if afraid he were being heard, "is a terrible spendthrift, and if she knew where the money was hidden she'd give me some time with mink coats and expensive hats and things like perfume. I think... I think it was she who ransacked the house. She told me she had been shopping and found this terrible thing had happened when she returned, but I want you to check the fingerprints and make sure. If I accused her and I were wrong, I'd never hear the end of it. She'd make my life miserable, as if it could be any more so living with a woman like that. She's after that money, I know."

Jerry found fingerprints all over the house. He checked doorknobs, prints on the walls, those that were on vases and picture frames which had been moved in the search for the money—the unsuccessful search. He found prints everywhere, but they were strange prints. He told Claude Miller he would go to headquarters and have them checked. Then he would call him to bring his wife down if they should prove to be a woman's. On the way out of the house, Jerry could see a woman walking about the living room, as if inspecting the damage, and he knew it was Claude Miller's wife. She was a large woman, built rather bony, but one would never suspect her of ripping the house apart to find out her husband's secret.

Jerry sighed as he left the house. He felt sorry for Miller, a man afraid of his own wife.

He laughed, then thought to himself, "It may be funny, but it really calls for some keen investigating. With so much money in the house, Miller isn't safe. That is, if anyone else knows about his inheritance besides his wife. I'm pretty sure the prints weren't that of a woman. There must be someone, somewhere, who also knows about the dough!"

He drove up to headquarters and parked his car. Then he half-ran toward the laboratory.

He left the prints with the technician, and had a cup of coffee in a candy store across the street from the station while he awaited the results.

* * *

In the meantime, Claude Miller went through the rooms in his house, shaking his head when he again saw the torn walls, the drawers that were all upset. He went about replacing books,

CONTINUED BEFORE LAST STORY

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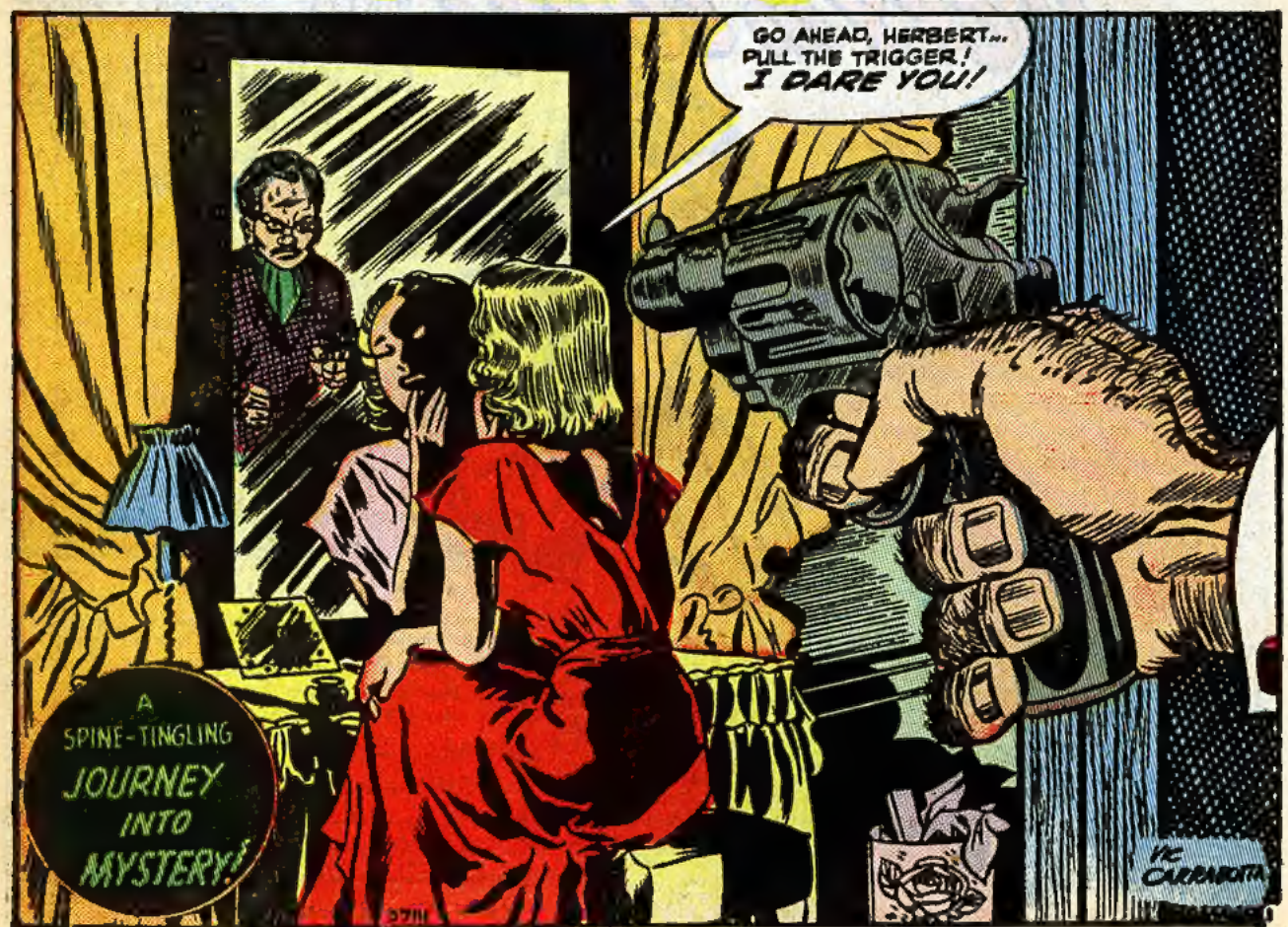
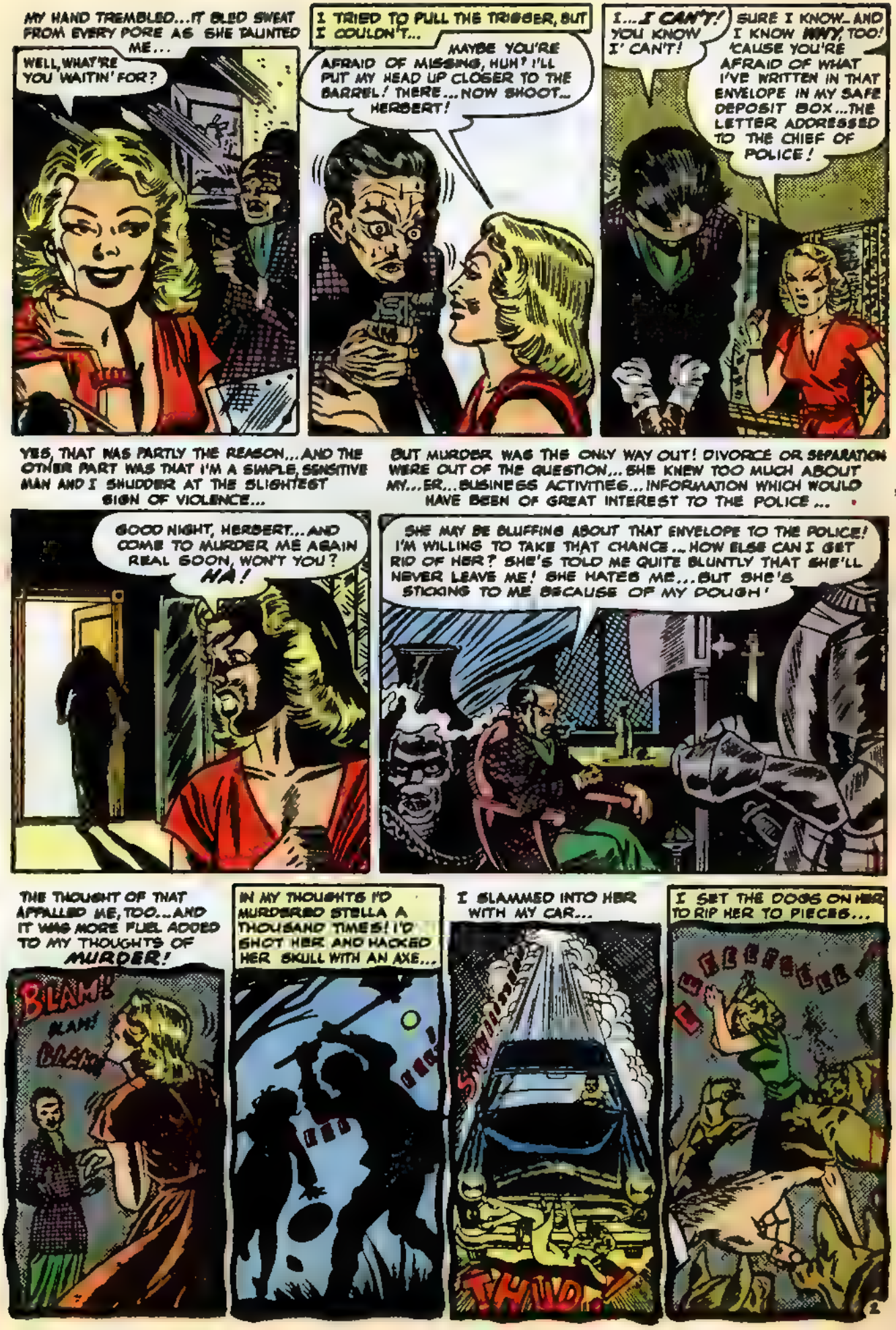
LET'S SEE WHAT'S MAKING HERBERT SO MAD AT HIS WIFE! HE'S REALLY BOILING OVER, AND WOULD JUST LOVE TO GET RID OF THE BLONDE DOLL! BUT HE HADN'T COUNTED ON A CERTAIN EVENT, TO MAKE THEIR SEPARATION IMPOSSIBLE!

TILL DEATH DO US PART

I'M A SIMPLE MAN.. AND I SHUDDER AT THE SLIGHTEST EXHIBITION OF VIOLENCE! BUT THE THOUGHT OF WHAT MY WIFE HAD DONE TO ME AROUSED AN ANGER IN ME SUCH AS I NEVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE, AND THAT ANGER MATURED INTO THOUGHTS OF MURDER!




MY HAND TREMBLED...IT BLED SWEAT FROM EVERY PORE AS SHE TAUNTED ME...
WELL, WHAT'RE YOU WAITIN' FOR?
I TRIED TO PULL THE TRIGGER, BUT I COULDN'T...
MAYBE YOU'RE AFRAID OF MISSING, HUH? I'LL PUT MY HEAD UP CLOSER TO THE BARREL! THERE...NOW SHOOT... HERBERT!
I...I CAN'T! YOU KNOW I' CAN'T!
SURE I KNOW...AND I KNOW WHY, TOO! 'CAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID OF WHAT I'VE WRITTEN IN THAT ENVELOPE IN MY SAFE DEPOSIT BOX...THE LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE!
YES, THAT WAS PARTLY THE REASON...AND THE OTHER PART WAS THAT I'M A SIMPLE, SENSITIVE MAN AND I SHUDDER AT THE SLIGHTEST SIGN OF VIOLENCE...
BUT MURDER WAS THE ONLY WAY OUT! DIVORCE OR SEPARATION WERE OUT OF THE QUESTION...SHE KNEW TOO MUCH ABOUT MY...ER...BUSINESS ACTIVITIES...INFORMATION WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN OF GREAT INTEREST TO THE POLICE...
GOOD NIGHT, HERBERT...AND COME TO MURDER ME AGAIN REAL SOON, WON'T YOU? HA!
SHE MAY BE BLUFFING ABOUT THAT ENVELOPE TO THE POLICE! I'M WILLING TO TAKE THAT CHANCE...HOW ELSE CAN I GET RID OF HER? SHE'S TOLD ME QUITE BLUNTLY THAT SHE'LL NEVER LEAVE ME! SHE HATES ME...BUT SHE'S STICKING TO ME BECAUSE OF MY DOUGH!
THE THOUGHT OF THAT APPALLED ME, TOO...AND IT WAS MORE FUEL ADDED TO MY THOUGHTS OF MURDER!
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
IN MY THOUGHTS I'D MURDERED STELLA A THOUSAND TIMES! I'D SHOT HER AND HACKED HER SKULL WITH AN AXE...
I SLAMMED INTO HER WITH MY CAR...
SMASH!
THUD!
I SET THE DOGS ON HER TO RIP HER TO PIECES...
2

BUT THOUGHTS CAN'T KILL PEOPLE, AND AS I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE, I'M A TIMID MAN.. I DEPLORE VIOLENCE.. SO MY WIFE WENT ON LIVING..

GOOD NIGHT, HERBERT! I'M GOING OUT/ YOU STAY HOME AND HAVE A GOOD TIME THINKING OF A WAY TO MURDER ME! HA!

SHE WENT ON CHEATING RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE..

HELLO, DARLING!

AND SHE WENT ON SPENDING MY MONEY..

PAY THE MAN, HERBERT... IT'S A C.O.D. FROM THE JEWELRY!

A THOUSAND DOLLARS EVEN, SIR... PLUS TAX!

ANGER BREWED INSIDE OF ME WITH FURY OF BOILING LAVA DEEP IN THE PIT OF A VOLCANO.. UNTIL, LIKE A VOLCANO, I COULD HOLD IT NO LONGER..

STELLA! COME IN HERE AT ONCE!

MY.. MY! WHAT A DEEP VOICE YOU HAVE, GRANDPA! DON'T USE IT ON ME AGAIN, OR YOU'LL BE SOR-R-R-RY!

I'M A SIMPLE MAN, STELLA.. AND I DETEST VIOLENCE.. BUT YOU'VE PROVOKED ME TO THE POINT OF..

OW-W-W! HERBERT! HAVE YOU GONE MAD? LET GO!

I NEVER FINISHED THE JOB.. BECAUSE AT THAT POINT THE GREATEST VIOLENCE THE WORLD HAD EVER KNOWN WAS PERPETRATED UPON ALL CIVILIZATION! THE DREADED ATOMIC WAR WHICH EVERYONE HAD ANTICIPATED SINCE 1953 WAS FINALLY AN ACTUALITY!

HERBERT! HOLD ME! THE GROUND'S TREMBLING! I.. I'M AFRAID!

GOOD! GET AWAY FROM ME... AND I HOPE YOU DIE OF FRIGHT!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

SKINNY

MEN ARE OFTEN ASHAMED TO STRIP FOR SPORTS OR FOR A SWIM!

GIRLS ARE NOT ALLURING AND DON'T HAVE EYE-CATCHING CURVES!

CHILDREN WHO WON'T EAT AND ARE UNDER-WEIGHT, OFTEN CALLED SKINNY!

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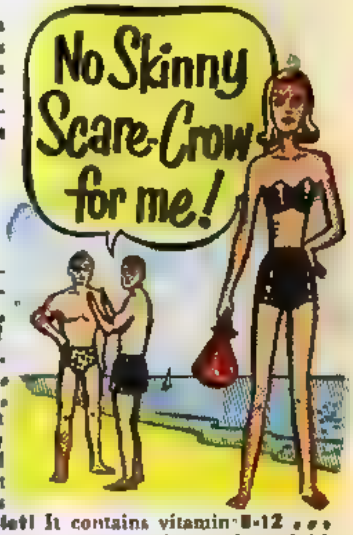

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Not one child yet has failed to go for and ask for more MORE-WATE tablets! Stop worrying about children not eating enough, give them MORE-WATE tablets—it stimulates their appetite . . . they eat it like candy!

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SENT ON APPROVAL—MAKE AMAZING 10-DAY TEST

BEING A TIMID MAN...A MAN EASILY REPULSED BY VIOLENCE... I SHALL NEVER BE ABLE TO ERASE FROM MY MEMORY THE TERROR I EXPERIENCED AS THE BOMBS REAPED THEIR DESTRUCTION...

PEOPLE, MACHINES, BUILDINGS...THEY WERE TOSSED, TWISTED, TURNED, BURNED AND REDUCED TO CINDERS IN A MATTER OF SECONDS...

IT WAS A SHORT WAR... BUT THE DESTRUCTION WAS GREAT!

HALF OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION WAS WIPED OUT BEFORE PEACE CAME! THOSE WHO WERE SPARED CONSIDERED THEMSELVES FORTUNATE, EVEN THOUGH ATOMIC SHOCK HAD LEFT MAN IN A DEPLORABLE STATE, AND MANY UNDERWENT DREADFUL CHANGES UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ATOMIC RADIATION!

I WAS SPARED...AND SO WAS STELLA! BUT I WASN'T HAPPY ABOUT IT...AND NEITHER WAS MY WIFE...

IF I WASN'T A SENSITIVE MAN, ALLERGIC TO VIOLENCE... I'D KILL MYSELF!

AND I WOULDN'T WANT A CENT OF YOUR FILTHY MONEY IF I COULD GET RID OF YOU!

WE HATED EACH OTHER MORE THAN EVER, AND OUR GREATEST WISH WAS TO GET RID OF EACH OTHER! BUT THAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE NOW... BECAUSE ATOMIC RADIATION HAD WELDED OUR BODIES TOGETHER... UNTIL DEATH DO US PART!

THE END

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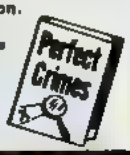

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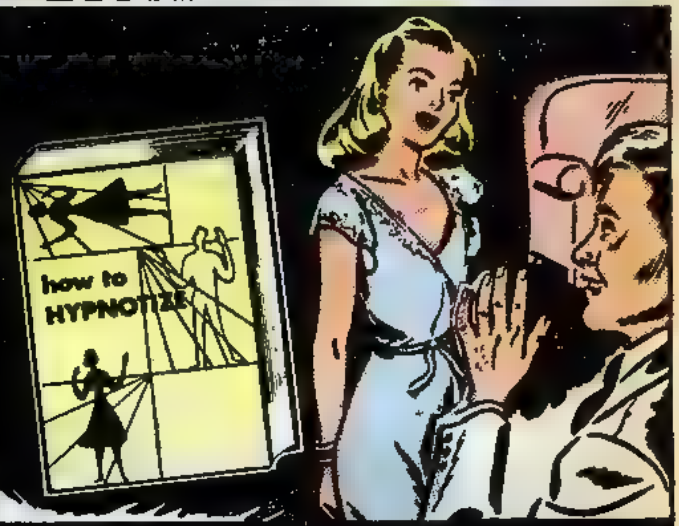
HOW TO HYPNOTIZE



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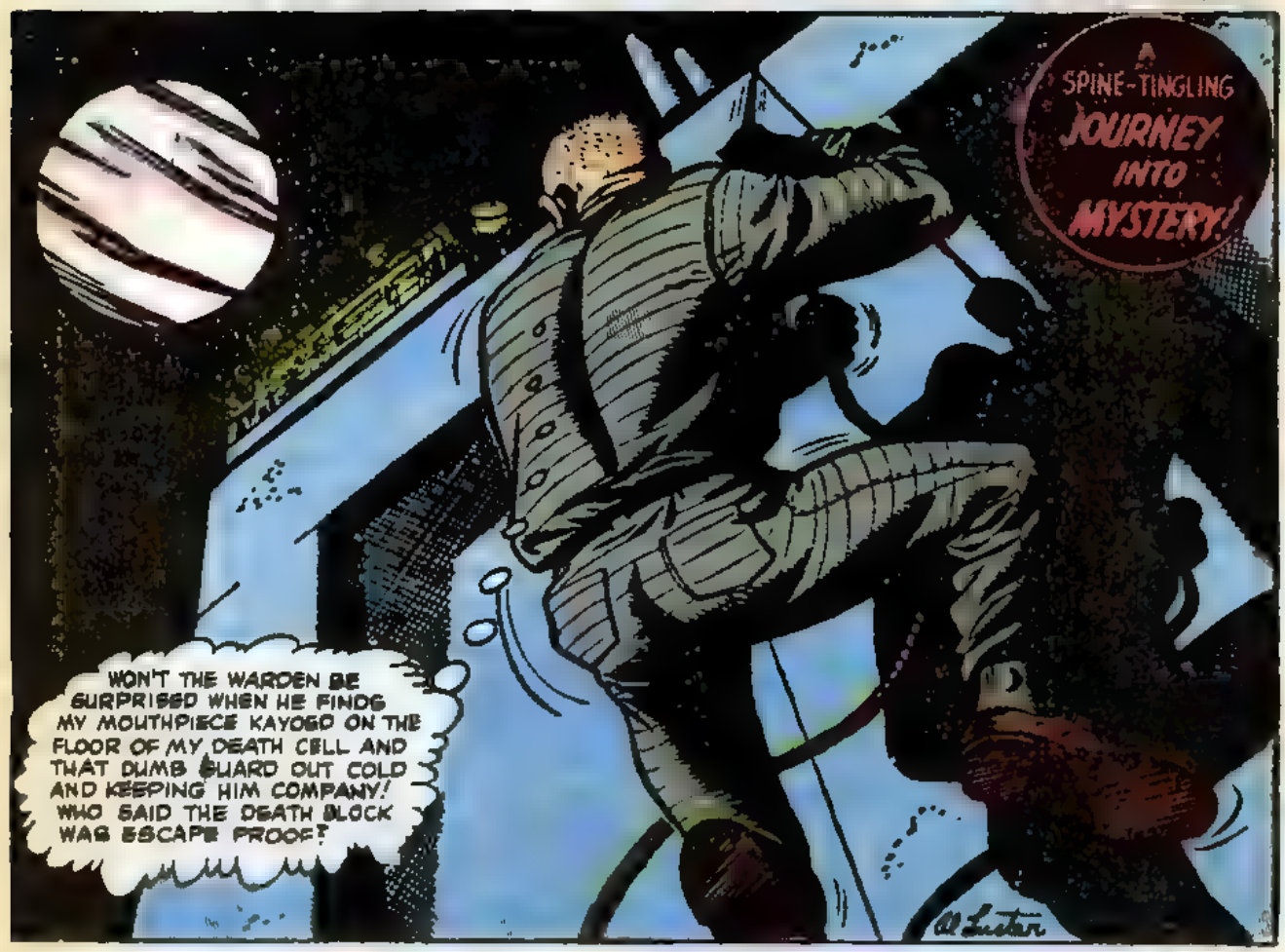
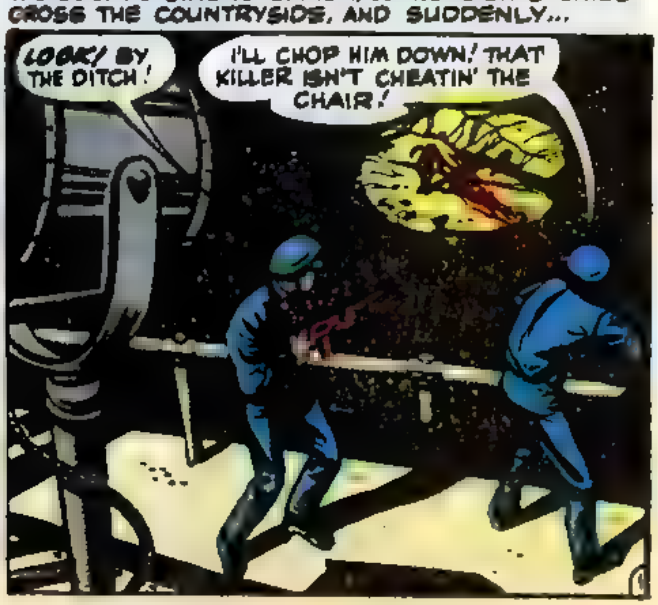
POOR STELLA! SHE'S STUCK WITH HERBERT FOR LIFE NOW! MAYBE YOU CAN'T SEE HOW A TALE THAT BEGINS WITH A PRISON BREAK CAN DEVELOP INTO A WEIRDIE! WELL, YOU'RE DUE FOR A SHOCKING SURPRISE, CHUM!

THE FACE THAT FOLLOWED

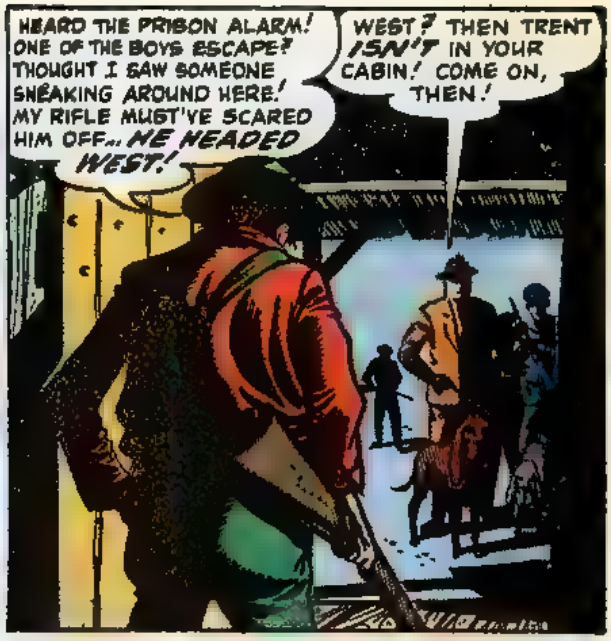

A SPINE-TINGLING JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY!
WON'T THE WARDEN BE SURPRISED WHEN HE FINDS MY MOUTHPIECE KAYOED ON THE FLOOR OF MY DEATH CELL AND THAT DUMB GUARD OUT COLD AND KEEPING HIM COMPANY! WHO SAID THE DEATH BLOCK WAS ESCAPE PROOF?
Lieber

INSIDE THE CELL BLOCK, WHERE TONY TRENT, BANK ROBBER AND MURDERER, WAS AWAITING HIS FINAL HOUR, A BEATEN GUARD STAGGERS DAZEDLY...

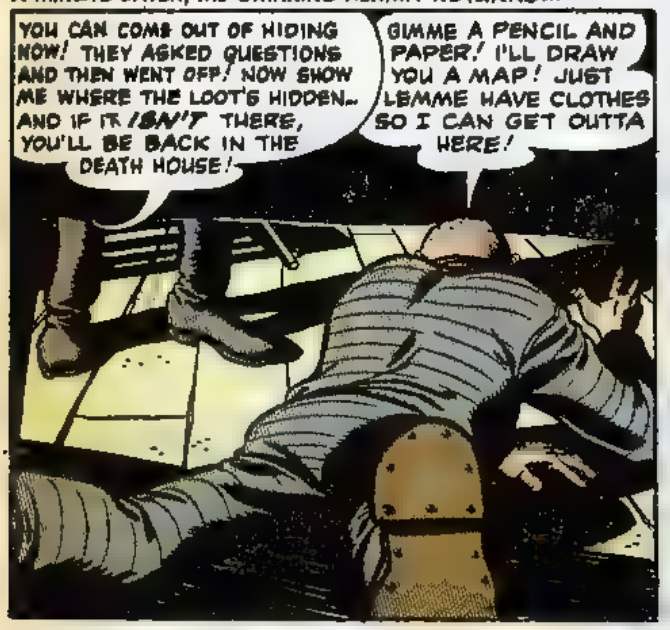
THE ESCAPE SIRENS SHRIEK, SEARCHLIGHTS CRISS-CROSS THE COUNTRYSIDE, AND SUDDENLY...



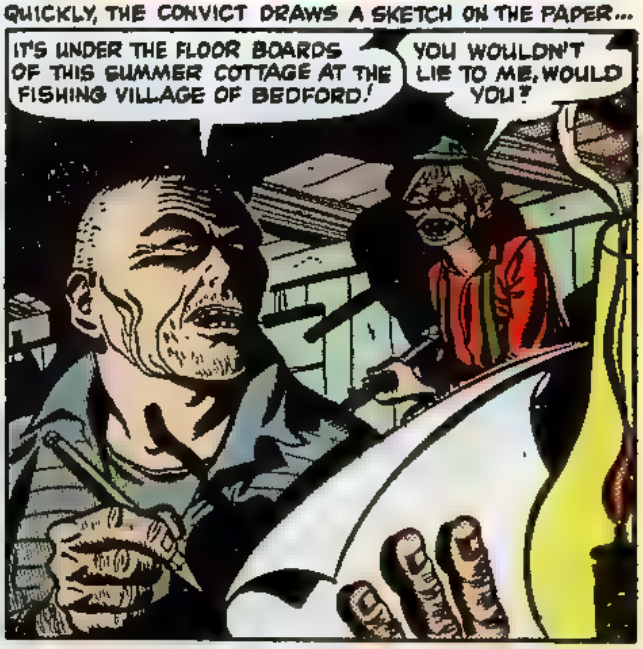
THEY CAN SAVE THEIR LEAD! THEY CAN'T REACH ME HERE! ONCE THRU THAT CULVERT, I'LL BE IN OPEN COUNTRY AND HAVE A CHANCE TO DUMP ANY POSSE!
THE HOUNDS HAVE HIS TRAIL, WARDEN!
KEEP THEM ON IT! WHEN HE PULLED THE BANK JOB AND KILLED THE TWO TELLERS, THE LOOT WAS NEVER RECOVERED...QUARTER OF A MILLION! ODDS ARE HE'LL HEAD FOR WHERE HE HID THE MONEY... AND WE'LL GET TONY AND THE CASH!
WITH THE BAYING OF HOUNDS URGING HIM ON, TONY TRENT CUTS INTO THE DESOLATE HILL COUNTRY..
A SHACK! IF I CAN MAKE A DEAL WITH WHOEVER'S THERE, I'LL BE SAFE!
A FURTIVE KNOCK ON THE DOOR AND THE CREAKING BOARDS SWING OPEN A FEW INCHES, AS A DISHEVELED HERMIT PEERS OUT...
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
OPEN UP, POP! LEMME IN!
I KNOW YOU, YOU'RE TONY TRENT, THE KILLER! KEEP YOUR HANDS UP!
ALRIGHT, POP, YOU KNOW ME! DO LIKE I SAY AND I'LL MAKE YOU RICH! MISLEAD THE POSSE AND A HUNDRED GRAND IS YOURS!
A HUNDRED THOUSAND? PAPERS SAY YOU HID A QUARTER OF A MILLION! MY HELP DON'T COME CHEAP!
OKAY, POP... A HUNDRED AND FIFTY GRAND IS YOURS IF YOU SEND THE POSSE OFF ON A WILD-GOOSE CHASE!
BETTER MAKE IT ALL THE MONEY! YOU CAN'T SPEND ANY OF IT IF YOU GO TO THE CHAIR!
IT'S A DEAL! JUST KEEP THOSE COPPERS OFF MY TRAIL!


HEARD THE PRISON ALARM! ONE OF THE BOYS ESCAPE? THOUGHT I SAW SOMEONE SNEAKING AROUND HERE! MY RIFLE MUST'VE SCARED HIM OFF.. HE HEADED WEST!
WEST? THEN TRENT ISN'T IN YOUR CABIN! COME ON, THEN!

A MINUTE LATER, THE GRINNING HERMIT RETURNS...

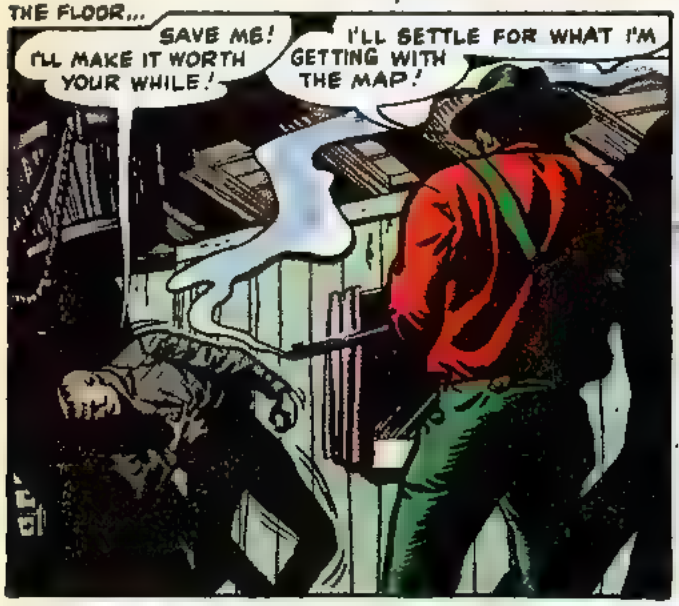

YOU CAN COME OUT OF HIDING NOW! THEY ASKED QUESTIONS AND THEN WENT OFF! NOW SHOW ME WHERE THE LOOT'S HIDDEN.. AND IF IT ISN'T THERE, YOU'LL BE BACK IN THE DEATH HOUSE!
GIMME A PENCIL AND PAPER! I'LL DRAW YOU A MAP! JUST LEMME HAVE CLOTHES SO I CAN GET OUTTA HERE!

QUICKLY, THE CONVICT DRAWS A SKETCH ON THE PAPER...



N-NO! I DON'T WANT TO DIE! THAT'S WHERE THE LOOT IS! YOU PROMISED TO SAVE ME FOR IT! DON'T GO BACK ON YOUR WORD!
IF YOU'RE ALIVE, YOU MAY BE CAUGHT! IF YOU'RE CAUGHT THE COPS MAY LEARN I HAVE THE STOLEN MONEY! I'M NOT GOING TO JAIL FOR YOU!

AS THE SHOT ECHOES THRU THE SHACK, THE KILLER SLUMPS TO THE FLOOR...

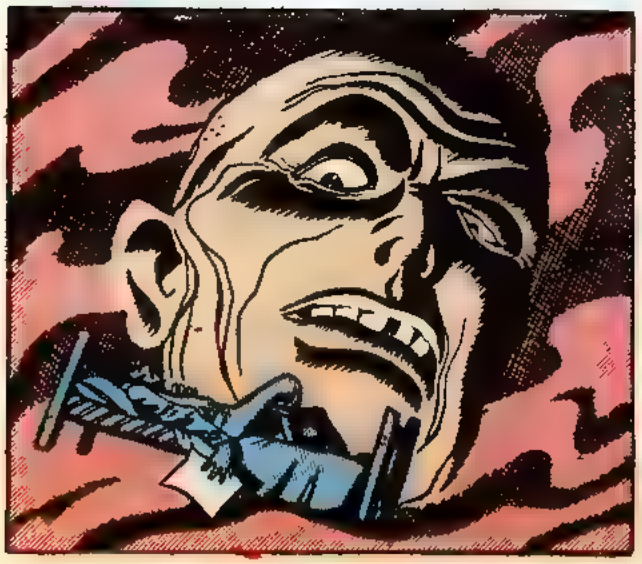


A SCOFFING LAUGH RINGS OUT AND A BULLET RIDDLES THE VENGEFUL CONVICT'S FACE..

IN THE DANK, LOW CELLAR BELOW THE RUN-DOWN SHACK, A SHOVEL SCRAPES EARTH ASIDE, THE BLOODY CORPSE IS DUMPED INTO THE HOLE AND COVERED OVER...

EXHAUSTED, THE TREACHEROUS HERMIT FLOPS DOWN ON HIS COT CLUTCHING IN HIS HAND THE MAP TO HIS ILL-WON FORTUNE...

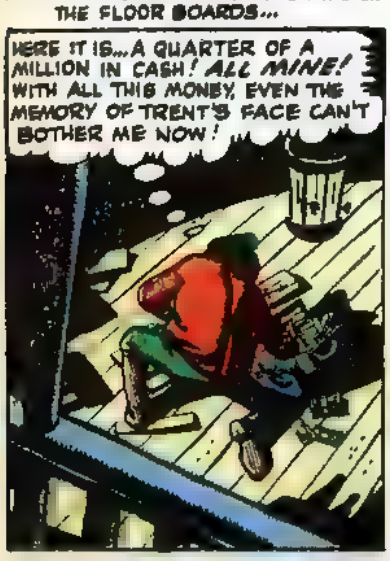
SLEEP COMES QUICKLY TO THE HERMIT, BUT WITH IT COMES THE NIGHTMARE OF A COLD, HATE-FILLED FACE THAT LOOMS LARGER AND LARGER IN HIS TERROR-RIDDEN DREAMS...



AGAIN HE TRIES TO SLEEP, BUT THE NIGHTMARE VISION OF THE DEAD MAN'S FACE RETURNS! TREMBLING, THE HERMIT SITS UP, AS THE BLACK NIGHT HOURS SLIP SLOWLY BY, BUT SUDDENLY...

IMAGINATION.. THAT'S ALL IT IS! HE'S DEAD AND BURIED AND I'M LETTING HIS DEATH CURSE ABOUT HIS FACE HAUNTING ME TILL I DIE GET THE BEST OF ME! SOON AS MORNING COMES, I'LL GET THE HIDDEN LOOT AND FORGET ABOUT TRENT AND HIS UGLY FACE!

AT DUSK THE NEXT DAY, THE HERMIT LOCATES THE COTTAGE ON THE CONVICT'S MAP! WITH GREEDY HANDS, HE RIPS UP THE FLOOR BOARDS...



BUT AS HE COMES OUT OF THE COTTAGE, CAR LIGHTS SUDDENLY FLASH ON...

WARDEN, YOUR HUNCH WAS RIGHT! THAT'S THE COTTAGE WHERE TRENT WAS ONCE SEEN.. HE CAME BACK!
YOU'RE COVERED, TRENT! RAISE YOUR HANDS!

THE DEAD CONVICT'S CURSE HAD BEEN FULFILLED... HIS FACE *HAD* RETURNED TO HAUNT THE HERMIT RIGHT UP TO THE INSTANT OF HIS DEATH, FOR...

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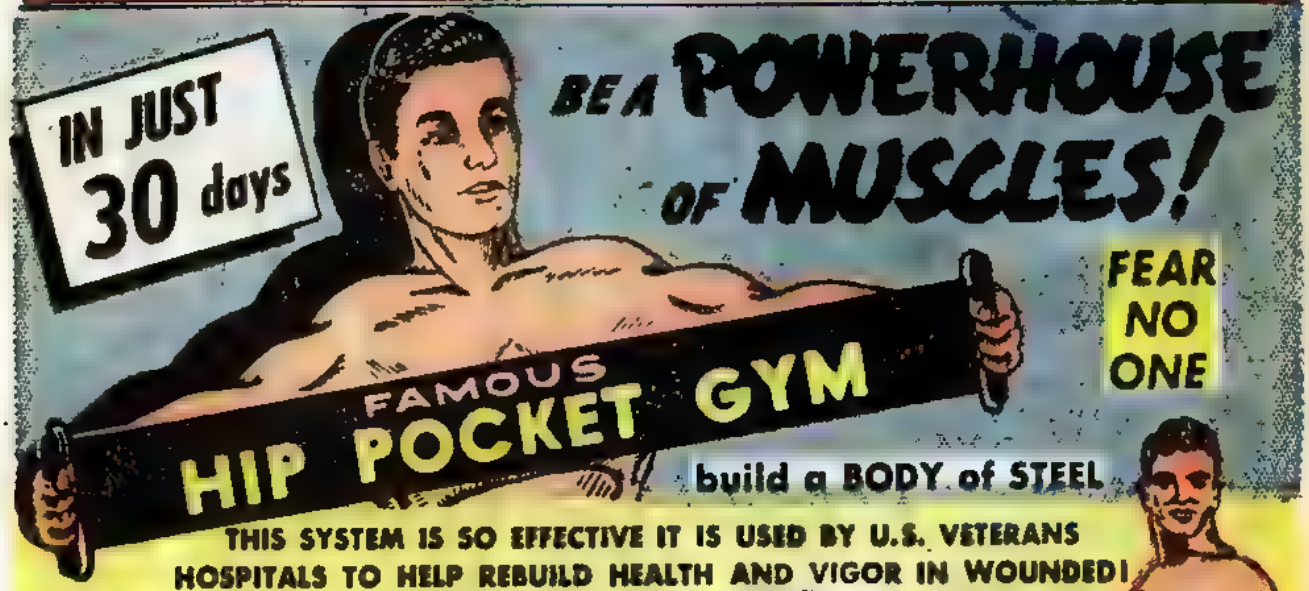

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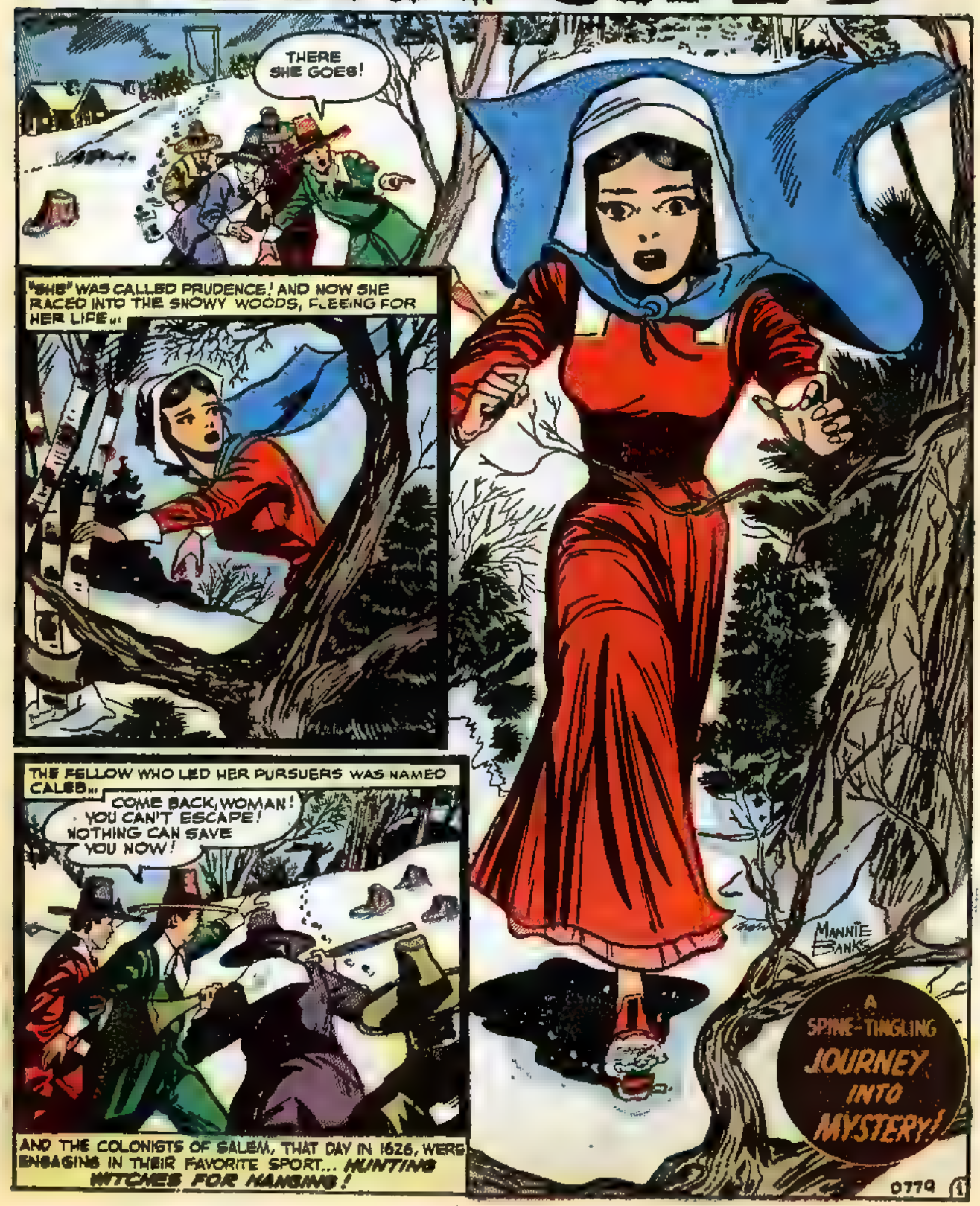
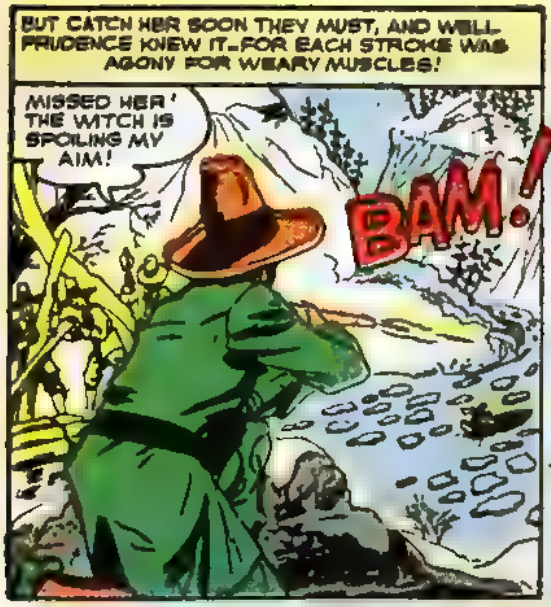
LET'S TAKE A TRIP THROUGH TIME... AND DROP IN ON THIS TERRIFYING CHASE IN SALEM, BACK IN 1626! THE MEN ARE BOTHERED AND BEWILDERED... AND ALL BECAUSE THEY'RE CONVINCED PRETTY PRUDENCE IS...

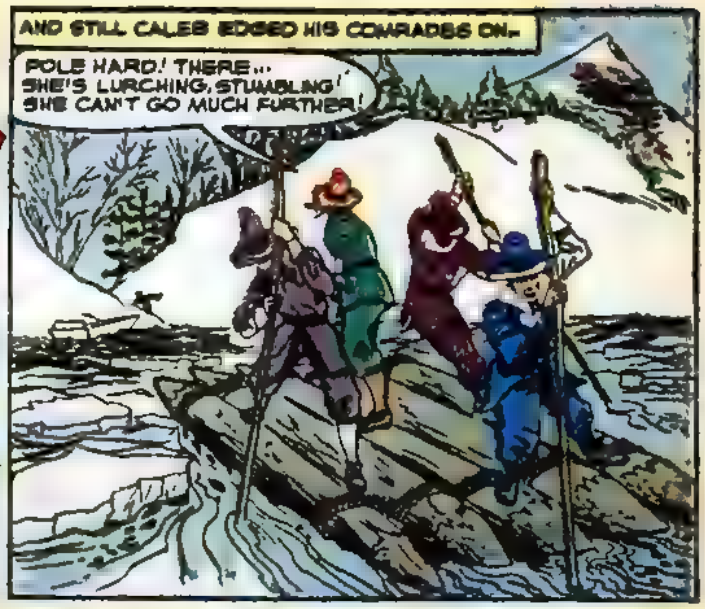
BEWITCHED


THERE SHE GOES!
"SHE" WAS CALLED PRUDENCE! AND NOW SHE RACED INTO THE SNOWY WOODS, FLEEING FOR HER LIFE...
THE FELLOW WHO LED HER PURSUERS WAS NAMED CALEB...
COME BACK, WOMAN! YOU CAN'T ESCAPE! NOTHING CAN SAVE YOU NOW!
AND THE COLONISTS OF SALEM, THAT DAY IN 1626, WERE ENGAGING IN THEIR FAVORITE SPORT... HUNTING WITCHES FOR HANGING!
MANNIE BANKS
A SPINE-TINGLING JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY!

PRUDENCE HAD FIRST GLIMPSED CALEB THE DAY SHE ARRIVED IN SALEM...
CAREFUL WITH THAT CHEST!
LOOK THERE, WOULD YOU? GOLD!
CALEB HAD SEEN IT, TOO! HIS EYES HAD BULGED LIKE MONEYBAGS...
SHE HAS NO HUSBAND AND A DOWRY SUCH AS THAT WOULD MAKE ONE MIDAS-RICH!
HE HAD BEEN AT HER COTTAGE DOOR CONSTANTLY AFTER THAT! AND, FINALLY, INEVITABLY...
I'VE STATED MY INTENTIONS TO THE ELDERS, MISTRESS PRUDENCE! I'M ASKING YOU TO BE MY WIFE!
MY ANSWER IS NO! IT CAN'T BE!
CALEB HIT THE CEILING! THE GOLD WAS DENIED HIM... HIS PRIDE WAS SMASHED TOO...
YOU...YOU'D MAKE ME A LAUGHING STOCK? YOU'LL RUE THIS DAY, WOMAN!
THE FOOL! BUT WHATEVER DOES HE MEAN? THERE'S AN EVIL STRAIN IN CALEB!
THE ANSWER HAD NOT BEEN LONG IN COMING! THE NEXT NIGHT, JUST BACK FROM A TRIP PRUDENCE HAD BEEN JOLTED UPRIGHT IN BED BY STRANGE SOUNDS...
WHO'S THERE? WHO IS IT DOWN THERE?
CALEB HAD COME BACK! AND WITH HIM THE TOWN'S ELDERS...
NO! NO! IT'S NOT TRUE!
LOOK! THE BLACK BOOK, BONES, AND ADDER'S BLOOD! NOW CAN YOU DOUBT SHE'S A WITCH?
THAT WAS CALEB'S REVENGE! HOW COULD SHE CONVINCE THEM HE HAD PLANTED THOSE THINGS THERE?
WAIT! I'M NO WITCH!
HAH! WAS EVER A SERVANT OF SATAN DISCOVERED WHO'D ADMIT IT?
2

THAT WAS LAST NIGHT, SCANT HOURS AGO! NOW PRUDENCE WAS FLEEING, GASPING, THROUGH CLUTCHING BRIARS...
THEY'RE CLOSE BEHIND!
HAH! RIVER DEAD AHEAD OF HER! WE'VE GOT HER NOW, LADS!
CALEB'S CRY OF VENGEANCE RANG ON PRUDENCE'S EARS LIKE A CROAK OF DOOM...AN ECHO OF THE JUDGE'S WORDS!
YOU WILL HANG ON THE SCAFFOLD!
NO! MERCY! I BEG OF YOU... MERCY!
BUT HER PLEA HAD FALLEN ON DEAF EARS! QUICKLY, THEY HAD DRAGGED HER TO THE WAITING SCAFFOLD...
I'LL HAVE HER WRISTS BOUND IN A SECOND! STAND READY WITH THAT NOOSE!
WAIT! THOSE RUNAWAY HORSES THERE! LOOK OUT!
STARTLED BY THE EXCITED CRIES OF THE BLOODTHIRSTY CROWD THE HORSES HAD PLUNGED INTO THE EXECUTIONERS' MIDST!
BAM! THUD!
THE FOLKS OF SALEM SUMMED IT UP IN THE ONE WORD THEY SEEMED TO KNOW!
BEWITCHED!
AND SO PRUDENCE HAD REACHED THE RIVER'S BANK! AND THERE, SOME FISHERMAN'S BOAT WAITED...
I'M IN LUCK! THIS WILL GET ME ACROSS THE RIVER! THEY HAVEN'T CAUGHT ME YET!
3


BUT CATCH HER SOON THEY MUST, AND WELL PRUDENCE KNEW IT—FOR EACH STROKE WAS AGONY FOR WEARY MUSCLES!
MISSED HER! THE WITCH IS SPOILING MY AIM!
BAM!



IN A SHALLOW GULLY, HE LAY GRIMACING IN PAIN...
IT'S MY LEG... HAVE TO WAIT HERE! GO ON AFTER HER! DON'T LET HER GET AWAY! SHE'S NOT FAR AHEAD!

A CLUMP OF BUSHES HID PRUDENCE AS THE OTHERS SPED PAST...
LEAVING CALEB ALONE, ARE THEY? AH, A CHANCE TO SQUARE ACCOUNTS BEFORE THEY FIND ME!

AND THEN PRUDENCE WAS AT HIS THROAT! AND HER SCREECH WAS A HORRIBLE SOUND TO HEAR!
CALL ME A WITCH, DID YOU? WELL YOU WERE RIGHT!
THE END

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN WEIRD STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER ATLAS

straightening pictures, nailing the carpets down, always watching, from the corner of his eye, the movements of his wife Leona. When the telephone rang, it startled him.

He ran to the study and picked up the phone. It was Jerry Thorne. "Sorry, Mr. Miller, they're pretty rushed in the lab, and I won't have the results for a while. Just thought I'd phone in and see how things are. By the way, I'm pretty certain those weren't a woman's prints, so get off your wife's neck. You've probably imagined that she's after the money. She's just gonna wait around til Christmas and see how she makes out. If there's no mink coat under the tree, then you can worry," he laughed, "but until then, you can relax as far as your wife is concerned. There must be someone else connected. Someone who's heard that you've inherited the money. Someone you don't know about. Well, so long, I'll phone you just as soon as I have some results."

Claude dropped the phone in its cradle and jumped a little when he saw his wife standing behind him.

"Oh, my dear, you . . . frightened me. That was the detective . . ."

"You think it was I, don't you, Claude?" Leona was saying. "You think Thorne took a woman's fingerprints back with him, but you're wrong. Isn't that what the detective said?"

Claude felt an arm on his, and without looking down, he felt strangely afraid and shook with cold. He walked away from Leona and went to another room to continue the work that had to be done. But when he got upstairs, he looked around. Leona wasn't nearby, and he rushed to a bedroom wall, and he felt it carefully until he found the button. He pressed it, and a small section of the wall slid back and revealed a black strongbox, the box which contained his inheritance. He patted the box, thankful it was still intact, and was about to close the sliding door when the telephone rang. He jumped again at the sound, and without bothering to press the button, went to the extension on the dresser. He picked up the telephone.

"Hello . . . who's speaking, please?"

"It's Thorne, Miller. I've got the results. I'm afraid you're in for a bit of a shock. I thought those prints were queer. No, they weren't of a woman, but . . ."

Thorne didn't finish his sentence. For in the bedroom in Claude Miller's house a frightening scene was taking place. Claude dropped the telephone onto the floor when he again had the same chill he had experienced when he had talked with Leona a few minutes before. He knew she was in the room with him, and had probably seen the opened partition in the wall. Then he felt her breath on his neck. Then suddenly he turned, and his eyes opened wide in horror.

"Leona . . . you're . . . YOU'VE CHANGED. THE FACE . . . LEONA'S FACE, BUT . . . GOOD HEAVEN'S . . . AM I DREAMING? IS THIS . . . REAL? HELP, HELP ME . . . LEONA . . . I . . . AGHHHRR"

At headquarters, Jerry Thorne dropped the phone, too. He hurried over to the Miller house, and when he stepped into the bedroom, what he saw made him pale. Miller was on the floor, dead, his eyes still opened in horror, and he had been clawed to death. His clothes were in shreds, and the red splotches were spreading fast over his entire body.

"Poor guy," Thorne sighed as he turned to leave and make his report. "I didn't have time to tell him that he didn't have to be afraid of his wife. It was . . . and this mangled body proves it . . . something inhuman. Some sort of a raging monster. I'm too late."

THE END A-100

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY, published bi-monthly at New York, N.Y., for October 1, 1953.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, CANAM PUBLISHERS SALES CORP., 270 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y.; Editor, STAN LEE, 270 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y.; Managing editor, MARTIN GOODMAN, 270 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y.; Business manager, MONROE FROEHLICH, JR., 270 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y.

2. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.)

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3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.)

None.

4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.

5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was: (This information is required from daily, weekly, semiweekly, and triweekly newspapers only.)

(Signed) MONROE FROEHLICH, JR.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21st day of September, 1953.

(SEAL) TESS HARWOOD (GOLDBERG)

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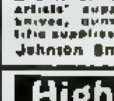

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THE MAN WHO WAS NOBODY

Save money to Europe
PARIS AND ROME ARE WONDERFUL THIS TIME OF THE YEAR, MR. GARLAN! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO TO GET YOUR PASSPORT IS TO FILL OUT THESE SIMPLE FORMS... SCHOOL RECORD, EMPLOYMENT RECORD, AND BIRTH CERTIFICATE!
I'LL DO IT RIGHT AWAY! I DON'T WANT ANYTHING DELAYING MY TRIP!
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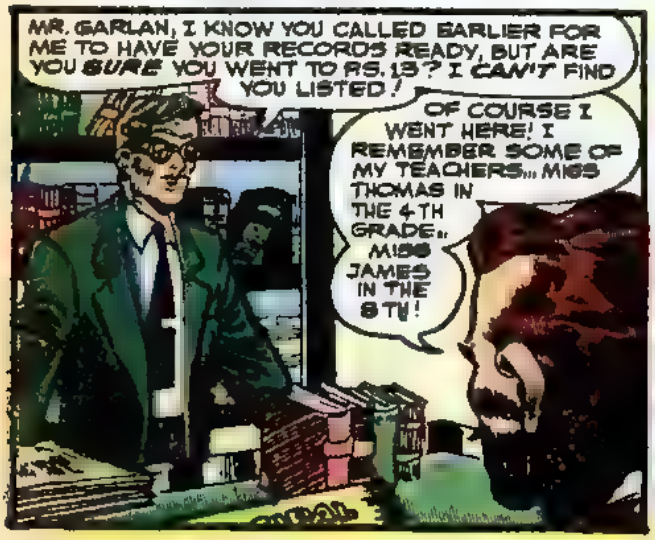
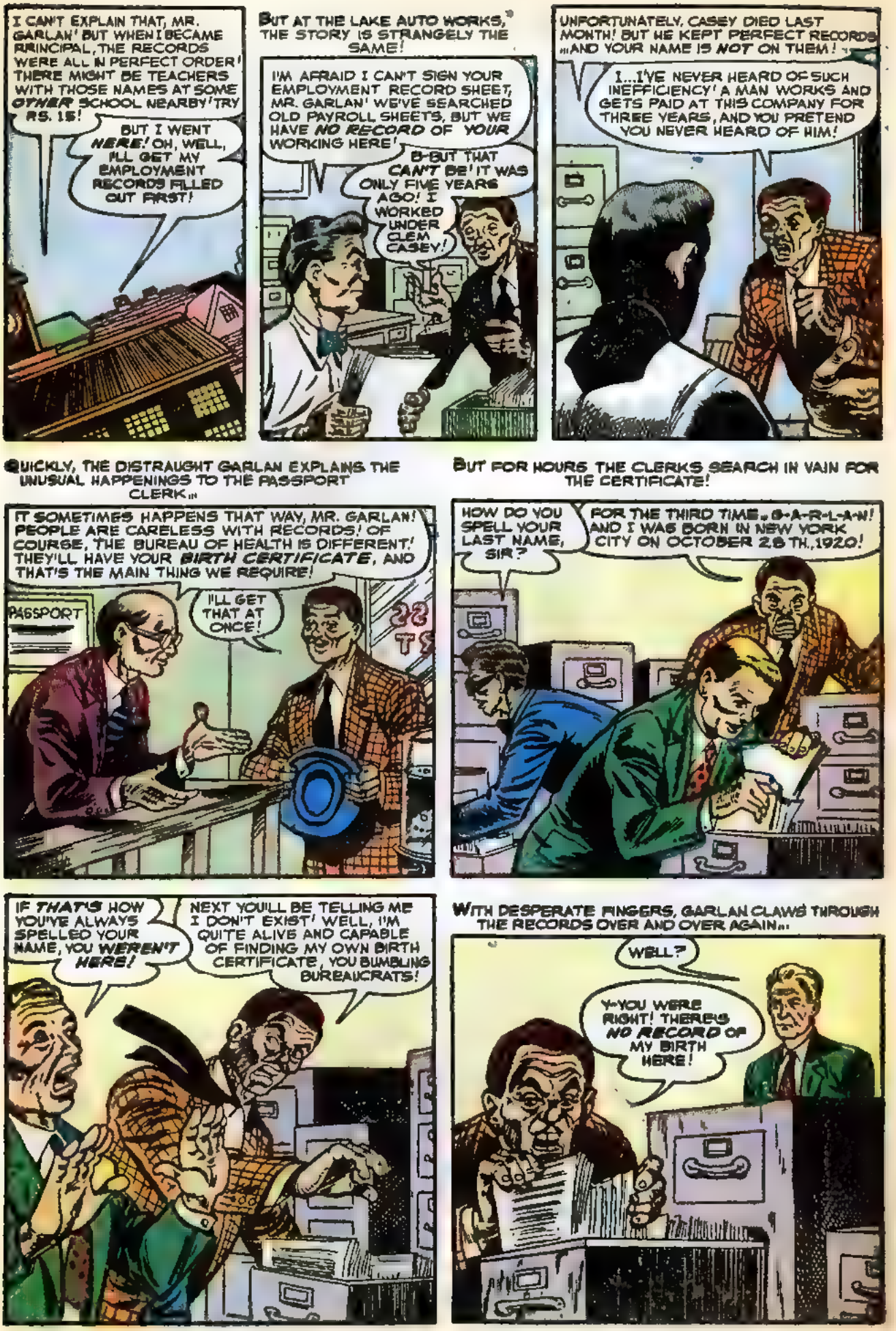
EUROPE

MR. GARLAN TAKES THE FORMS HOME, STARTS FILLING THEM OUT AND THEN GOES TO HIS OLD PUBLIC SCHOOL TO HAVE THE APPLICATION COMPLETED..


MR. GARLAN, I KNOW YOU CALLED EARLIER FOR ME TO HAVE YOUR RECORDS READY, BUT ARE YOU *SURE* YOU WENT TO P.S. 13? I *CAN'T* FIND YOU LISTED!
OF COURSE I WENT HERE! I REMEMBER SOME OF MY TEACHERS... MISS THOMAS IN THE 4TH GRADE... MISS JAMES IN THE 8TH!

THAT'S VERY PECULIAR! HERE ARE THEIR CLASS ROSTERS OF THE TIME YOU SAY YOU ATTENDED THIS SCHOOL! *THEY* TAUGHT HERE... BUT *YOU'RE NOT* ON THEIR ATTENDANCE SHEETS!
B-BUT, I *MUST* BE! HOW ELSE WOULD I KNOW THEIR NAMES?


I CAN'T EXPLAIN THAT, MR. GARLAN! BUT WHEN I BECAME PRINCIPAL, THE RECORDS WERE ALL IN PERFECT ORDER! THERE MIGHT BE TEACHERS WITH THOSE NAMES AT SOME OTHER SCHOOL NEARBY! TRY P.S. 15!
BUT I WENT HERE! OH, WELL, I'LL GET MY EMPLOYMENT RECORDS FILLED OUT FIRST!
BUT AT THE LAKE AUTO WORKS, THE STORY IS STRANGELY THE SAME!
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T SIGN YOUR EMPLOYMENT RECORD SHEET, MR. GARLAN! WE'VE SEARCHED OLD PAYROLL SHEETS, BUT WE HAVE NO RECORD OF YOUR WORKING HERE!
B-BUT THAT CAN'T BE! IT WAS ONLY FIVE YEARS AGO! I WORKED UNDER CLEM CASEY!
UNFORTUNATELY, CASEY DIED LAST MONTH! BUT HE KEPT PERFECT RECORDS AND YOUR NAME IS NOT ON THEM!
I...I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH INEFFICIENCY! A MAN WORKS AND GETS PAID AT THIS COMPANY FOR THREE YEARS, AND YOU PRETEND YOU NEVER HEARD OF HIM!
QUICKLY, THE DISTRAUGHT GARLAN EXPLAINS THE UNUSUAL HAPPENINGS TO THE PASSPORT CLERK...
IT SOMETIMES HAPPENS THAT WAY, MR. GARLAN! PEOPLE ARE CARELESS WITH RECORDS! OF COURSE, THE BUREAU OF HEALTH IS DIFFERENT! THEY'LL HAVE YOUR BIRTH CERTIFICATE, AND THAT'S THE MAIN THING WE REQUIRE!
PASSPORT
I'LL GET THAT AT ONCE!
BUT FOR HOURS THE CLERKS SEARCH IN VAIN FOR THE CERTIFICATE!
HOW DO YOU SPELL YOUR LAST NAME, SIR?
FOR THE THIRD TIME, G-A-R-L-A-N! AND I WAS BORN IN NEW YORK CITY ON OCTOBER 26TH., 1920!
IF THAT'S HOW YOU'VE ALWAYS SPELLED YOUR NAME, YOU WEREN'T HERE!
NEXT YOU'LL BE TELLING ME I DON'T EXIST! WELL, I'M QUITE ALIVE AND CAPABLE OF FINDING MY OWN BIRTH CERTIFICATE, YOU BUMBLING BUREAUCRATS!
WITH DESPERATE FINGERS, GARLAN CLAWS THROUGH THE RECORDS OVER AND OVER AGAIN...
WELL?
Y-YOU WERE RIGHT! THERE'S NO RECORD OF MY BIRTH HERE!

IT CAN'T BE! I'M REAL! I EXIST! I HAVE MEMORIES AND THEY'VE BEEN RIGHT! THE TEACHERS I NAMED TAUGHT AT THE SCHOOL! THERE MUST BE A RECORD SOMEWHERE.. MAYBE IN THE NEWSPAPERS!

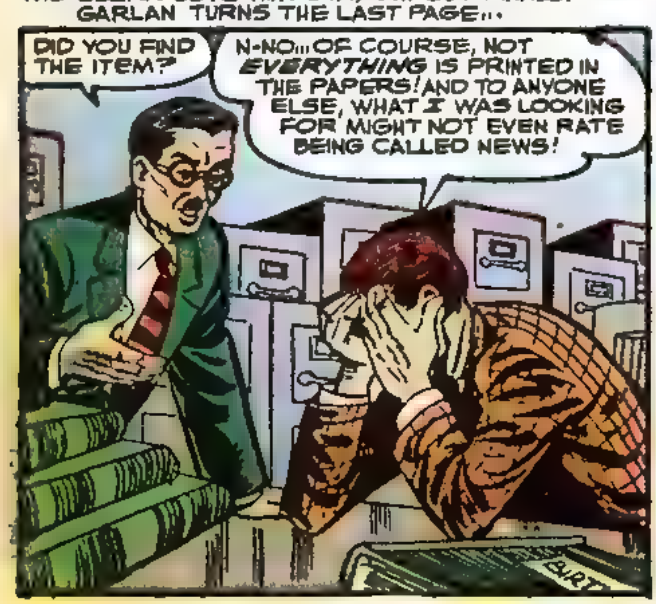
IN THE NEWSPAPER MORGUE, GARLAN FEELS A SENSE OF RELIEF...

BUT NERVOUSLY, HE TURNS PAGE AFTER PAGE OF THE PAPERS, IN HIS WILD SEARCH...

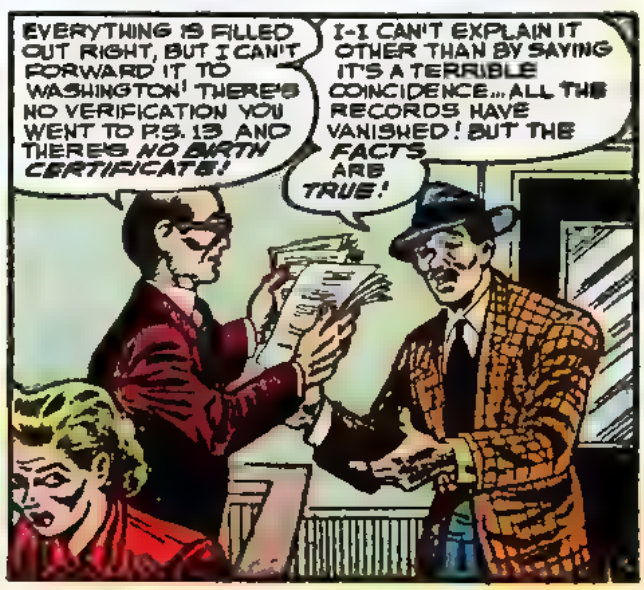
NOTHING IN THE BIRTH COLUMNS, NOTHING IN THE GRADUATION COLUMNS, NOTHING IN ANY COLUMN THAT MENTIONS HIS NAME!

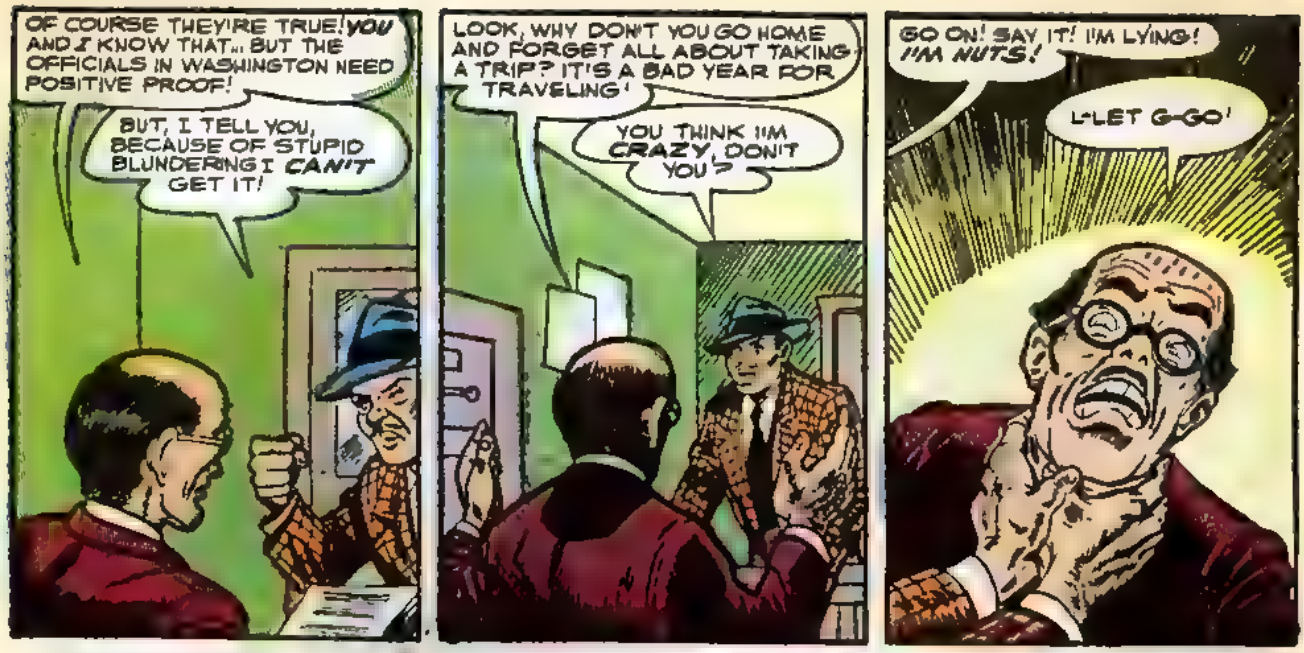
CLOSING TIME, SIR! I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE NOW!
NO! NOT NOW! I'M ALMOST ON THE POINT OF FINDING WHAT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR! JUST HALF AN HOUR... PLEASE!

SENSING THE DESPERATION IN THE MAN'S VOICE, THE CLERK LETS HIM STAY ON! BUT FINALLY GARLAN TURNS THE LAST PAGE...


DID YOU FIND THE ITEM?
N-NO... OF COURSE, NOT EVERYTHING IS PRINTED IN THE PAPERS! AND TO ANYONE ELSE, WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR MIGHT NOT EVEN RATE BEING CALLED NEWS!

THE NEXT MORNING, HAGGARD AND SHAKEN, GARLAN RETURNS TO THE PASSPORT BUREAU...


EVERYTHING IS FILLED OUT RIGHT, BUT I CAN'T FORWARD IT TO WASHINGTON! THERE'S NO VERIFICATION YOU WENT TO P.S. 13 AND THERE'S NO BIRTH CERTIFICATE!
I-I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT OTHER THAN BY SAYING IT'S A TERRIBLE COINCIDENCE... ALL THE RECORDS HAVE VANISHED! BUT THE FACTS ARE TRUE!

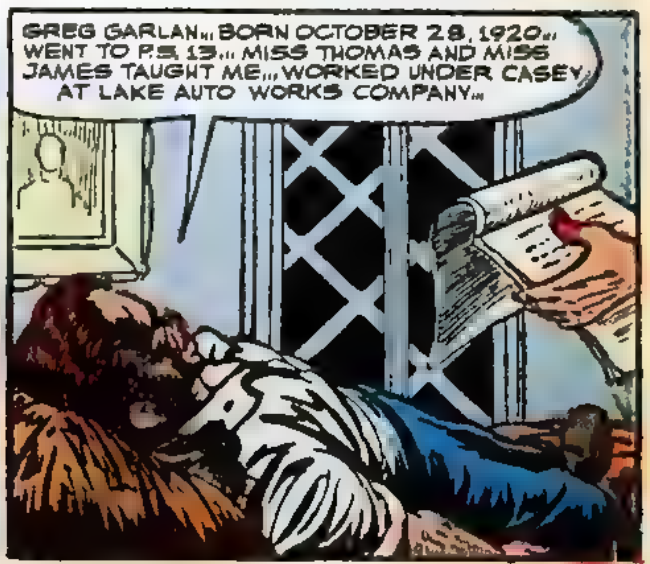

OF COURSE THEY'RE TRUE! YOU AND I KNOW THAT... BUT THE OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON NEED POSITIVE PROOF!
BUT, I TELL YOU, BECAUSE OF STUPID BLUNDERING I CAN'T GET IT!
LOOK, WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME AND FORGET ALL ABOUT TAKING A TRIP? IT'S A BAD YEAR FOR TRAVELING!
YOU THINK I'M CRAZY, DON'T YOU?
GO ON! SAY IT! I'M LYING! I'M NUTS!
L-LET G-GO!

WHAT'S BOTHERIN' YOU, BUSTER?
H-HE'S INSANE! HE KEEPS MAKING UP STORIES ABOUT HIMSELF AND CALLING EVERYONE WHO DENIES THEM, CRAZY!
I'M NOT INSANE! I WENT TO P.S. 13! I WAS BORN IN THIS CITY! I WORKED AT THE LAKE AUTO COMPANY! TAKE ME, TO ANY PSYCHIATRIST... HE'LL TELL YOU I'M SANE!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHO YOU'RE GOING TO SEE... THE BUG MAN AT BELLEVUE!

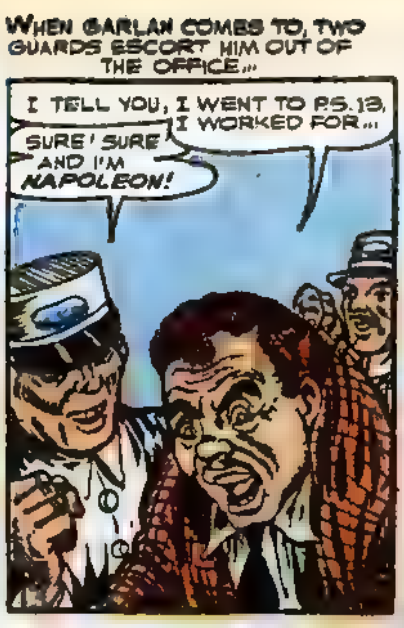
EAGERLY, GARLAN CONFRONTS THE PSYCHIATRIST, AFFIRMING ALL HE SAID IS THE TRUTH, AND POSITIVE THE DOCTOR WILL REALIZE HE IS NORMAL...

AS THE DOCTOR FINISHES READING THE PASSPORT APPLICATION QUESTIONS, GARLAN'S LIPS TREMBLE AND HE MURMURS FAINTLY...

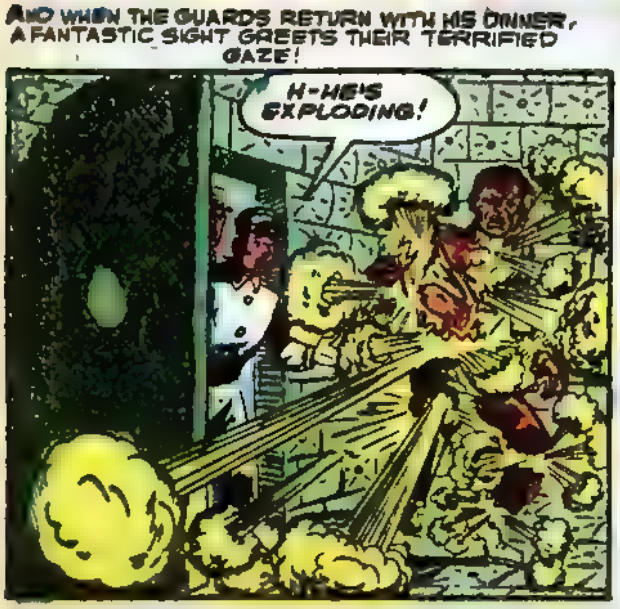
PULSE IS SLOWING DOWN... THE TRUTH SERUM IS TAKING EFFECT! IN A MINUTE OR TWO I'LL BE ABLE TO ASK HIM WHO HE REALLY IS AND LEARN HIS ACTUAL BACKGROUND!

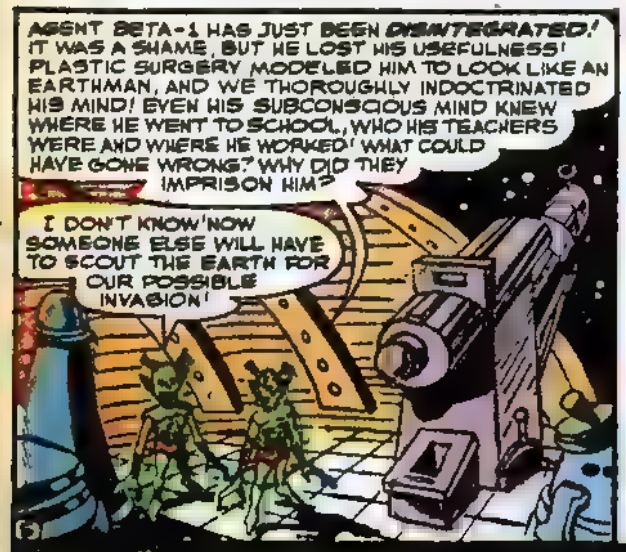

GREG GARLAN... BORN OCTOBER 28, 1920... WENT TO P.S. 13... MISS THOMAS AND MISS JAMES TAUGHT ME... WORKED UNDER CASEY AT LAKE AUTO WORKS COMPANY...

DOCTOR, HE'S UNDER THE TRUTH SERUM, BUT HE'S GIVEN THE SAME ANSWERS!
THERE'S ONLY ONE EXPLANATION, SINCE THERE ARE NO RECORDS TO VERIFY HIS STATEMENTS... HIS DELUSION SEEMS SO REAL TO HIM, IT HAS AFFECTED HIS SUBCONSCIOUS MIND! HE'S HOPELESSLY INSANE!



HIS BELT, SHOELACES, AND POCKETKNIFE REMOVED, GREG GARLAN IS PLACED IN A PADDED CELL AS THE BARRED DOOR SWINGS SHUT...
YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE! I DON'T BELONG HERE!
THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL SAY!




AND MILLIONS OF MILES AWAY ACROSS THE SPACE VOID, ON THE PLANET MARS...
AGENT BETA-1 HAS JUST BEEN DISINTEGRATED! IT WAS A SHAME, BUT HE LOST HIS USEFULNESS! PLASTIC SURGERY MODELED HIM TO LOOK LIKE AN EARTHMAN, AND WE THOROUGHLY INDOCTRINATED HIS MIND! EVEN HIS SUBCONSCIOUS MIND KNEW WHERE HE WENT TO SCHOOL, WHO HIS TEACHERS WERE AND WHERE HE WORKED! WHAT COULD HAVE GONE WRONG? WHY DID THEY IMPRISON HIM?
I DON'T KNOW! NOW SOMEONE ELSE WILL HAVE TO SCOUT THE EARTH FOR OUR POSSIBLE INVASION!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH HIS FILE?
I'M DESTROYING IT! IF EARTH AND MARS EVER BECOME FRIENDS, THEY'LL NEVER LEARN THAT BETA-1 OR GREG GARLAN CAME FROM HERE! THERE'LL BE NO RECORD OF HIS EXISTENCE!

WE'LL BE LOOKING FOR YOU WHEN WE TAKE OUR NEXT JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY! IT'LL BE A THRILLING TRIP YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS! BE SEEIN' YOU!

How Much Do *YOU* Want To Make?

$15.20 AN HOUR?

"FOR every hour I have devoted to the PRESTO, I find that I have earned an average of $15.20 an hour. I am now convinced that extraordinary money can be made in this safety field."
—WILLIAM F. WYDALLIS, Van Wert, Ohio

$37.78 IN 15 MINUTES?

"YOU should have named your extinguisher 'Miracle' instead of PRESTO. Friday morning I brought one to the office where I work and in 15 minutes I had orders for 18. (PROFIT $37.78.) By Friday evening the balance of 2 dozen were sold and orders taken for a dozen more. I had made a net profit of $75.56 the first day."
—RICHARD E. MEADE, Ohio

$1000.00 A MONTH?

A MAGAZINE featured this man on its front cover. In an interview with the magazine's reporter, he said:
"I think I've succeeded pretty well. I'm making more than a thousand dollars a month—and I haven't touched bottom yet."
—CHARLES KAMA, Texas

People from Coast to Coast Are Raving About "PRESTO" — The Amazing New Kind of Fire Extinguisher That "Sells on Sight!"

FOLKS, wouldn't you like to be making the kind of money these men made? Their stories (and those shown at right) prove how easy it is to cash in on the tremendous demand for Presto!

A Florida man earned $600 in one month. An Ohio man earned $2100 in two months. A New York man earned $1500 in one month.

What Is the Secret?

PRESTO contains an amazing new chemical—"Chlorobromomethane" or "C.B."—developed during the war. In comparing the effectiveness of "C.B." in fighting various kinds of fires an authoritative testing laboratory states: "It has been proved that 'C.B.' is about 1.5 to 6 times as effective as other common extinguishing agents on an equal weight basis."

This means that Presto can be made light and handy enough for even a woman or child to use. No pumping—no heavy tanks or tangled tubes to struggle with! Just a twist of the knob . . . and flames disappear! "Sells on sight" to civil defense workers and to owners of homes, cars, stores, farms, service stations, boats, motorcycles, factories, offices and to stores for re-sale.

Almost 2 Million PRESTOS Already Sold!

Everyone is terrified at the very *thought* of FIRE! *Every year* fire kills more than 11,000 people. Civil Defense Authorities have said that in the event of atomic attack regular fire fighting forces will be busy with large fires, and that people must be equipped to take care instantly of the little fire that might so easily become a big one.

Millions of people have been waiting for this sure, inexpensive fire safeguard. So most people who see Presto in action want one or more — ESPECIALLY WHEN THE PRICE IS ONLY $3.98 EACH!

"Many Others Cleaning Up" — SO CAN YOU!

$175 in First 5 Days
"I only work 5 days a week and this leaves me Saturday to do things I never had time to do . . . My first week my profit was $175.00 for the 5 days."—*CORDIAN S. MELIOUS.*

"The Most Phenomenal Money-Maker Today"
"My earnings for the week were $259.92 . . . Everybody I meet is a prospect. I have sold 197 PRESTOS on my own street where I live. Yes, Sir — PRESTO is the most phenomenal money-maker today." — *RAY BARTA, Wisconsin.*

Sold 18 in 6 Hours
"I get the thrill of my life demonstrating a PRESTO . . . It far exceeds any product I have ever represented . . . I sold my first eighteen in 6 hours." — *J. R. CASE, South Carolina*

Sold Average of 100 Prestos a Week—Part Time
"PRESTO is in a class by itself, small but mighty, easy to handle. My biggest week — two gross. My average sales on part-time basis — $100 a week." — *R. H. TABER, New Hampshire.*

Advertised in LIFE Magazine

Only Presto Has All These Features!

- Ends Fire Fast as 2 Seconds
- Chemical Contents 1.5 to 6 times More Effective than Others on an Equal Weight Basis
- Weighs Less than 1 Lb.
- Easily Held in One Hand — Even by a Child
- Does Not Corrode or Deteriorate
- Costs Only $3.98 — Yet Out-Performs Bulky Extinguishers Costing Several Times as Much
- Automatic Pressure — No Pumping
- Guaranteed for 20 Years — Certificate is Packed with Every Presto

Free EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO GET STARTED

You can demonstrate Presto in a few minutes to friends and neighbors, and every sale will net you $1 or more. We refill your demonstrator free . . . and we give you dramatically powerful printed sales material to "talk from" . . . free certificates testifying that Presto is GUARANTEED FOR 20 YEARS. YOU DON'T NEED TO INVEST A PENNY.

Start Now—Mail Coupon

Get started in this rich new field now. Don't "put it off". Every day you hesitate may cost you $10, $15, or even $50 you could otherwise be making. Mail the coupon NOW for everything you need to get started right away!

MERLITE INDUSTRIES, Inc.
Dept. 1213 201 East 16th Street, N. Y. 3, N. Y.

PRESTO Contains "C.B."

(Chlorobromomethane)—the same chemical that the U. S. Air Force specifies for fire-fighting in B-36's, B-29's and other U. S. Aircraft.

GET STARTED TODAY — MAIL THIS COUPON

MERLITE INDUSTRIES, Inc., Dept. 1213
201 East 16th Street, New York 3, N. Y.

Please send me — FREE — illustrated sales literature, liberal profit plan, order blanks — everything I need to get started making good money introducing the Presto Fire Extinguisher in my locality.

☐ CHECK HERE IF YOU WISH TO ORDER REGULAR PRESTO TO BE USED AS A DEMONSTRATOR ($2.50). You needn't enclose any money now—we'll send Demonstrator C.O.D. (Or if you wish to save money, enclose $2.50 and we'll pay postage.)

☐ If under 18 years of age, check here for Booklet A.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ Zone No. (if any)____ State_____

In Canada: Mapa Co., Ltd., 371 Dorval St., Montreal 1, P. Q.

UKRAINE 1918 — Complete set of 5 stamps. *SET NO. 1*

ESTONIA 1940 — Last 3 stamps issued in free Estonia (above). Beautiful pictures honor 100th birthday of postage stamp. *SET NO. 2*

LITHUANIA 1934 — 3 Stamps (above) picture flyers that crashed on transatlantic flight. *SET NO. 3.*

SOMALI COAST 1947—6 glamorous African scenes—beaches, palm trees, tents in wonderful colors. *SET NO. 4* →

HITLER STAMPS — Complete set of 8 in great demand; hard to get. *SET NO. 5*

PRIZED FOREIGN STAMPS

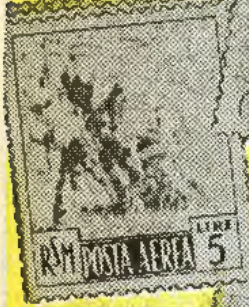
only 15¢ per Set!

***Now!* Big Bargain in Foreign Stamps! All in Brilliant Colors! All Different! All Valuable Hard-to-Get Sets!**

VATICAN CITY 1944 —Complete set of 3 stamps. *SET NO. 6*

SAN MARINO 1950—Airmail set of 2 with views of smallest, oldest republic. *SET NO. 7*

CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1949 — Semipostal set of 2 with Red Cross surtax. *SET NO. 8*



GREECE 1942 → Ancient ruins and present-day scenes in 5 stamps. *SET NO. 9*

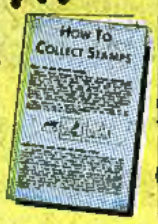
RUSSIA—Behind the Iron Curtain scenes inside Russia. Two giant size stamps, 3-colored. *SET NO. 10* ←

YES! It's true. You can take your pick of any of these exciting sets of Prized Foreign Stamps—not for the 25¢, 35¢, or 50¢ Catalog price you'd *expect* to pay—BUT FOR ONLY 15¢ PER SET!

READ the descriptions of each stamp set, SEE the fascinating pictures and foreign markings. Imagine the added interest and beauty of these stamps in wonderful colors. Then circle (in the coupon below) the numbers of the sets you want.

MAIL COUPON NOW *FREE!*

Don't delay! These Prized Foreign Stamps will go *fast*. We'll also send other interesting offers for your approval —PLUS a FREE copy of our exciting "How to Collect Stamps." Illustrated with pictures; expert advice on where and how to get stamps, trade stamps, etc. Rush coupon AT ONCE to: LITTLETON STAMP CO., Dept. MCG-3 Littleton, N. H.



SAVE 50¢ CASH AND GET... *Free*

A Handy Magnifying Glass PLUS A SET of 4 German Inflation Stamps When You Buy ALL 10 SETS of These Prized Foreign Stamps— for only $1!

If you take ALL 10 SETS of prized stamps on this page for only $1 (saving 50¢ cash!) we will send you FREE a handy magnifier to detect tiny stamp details AND a set of 4 unusual Inflation Stamps — issued in pre-war Germany *(face value Twenty MILLION Marks!)* But hurry; supply is short! Check box in coupon.

More People Get Stamps from LITTLETON than from Any Other Concern in The World

LITTLETON STAMP CO., Dept. MCG-3
Littleton, New Hampshire

I enclose _____. Rush me the Prize Foreign Stamp sets I have circled below. ONLY 15¢ PER SET. Also send me FREE your helpful and informative "How to Collect Stamps."

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

☐ I want to SAVE 50¢ and get 3 Gifts FREE. Send me ALL 10 SETS for only $1 (enclosed) — PLUS the Magnifying Glass, AND the set of 4 German Inflation Stamps, AND "How to Collect Stamps."

Print NAME _____

Print ADDRESS _____

City _____ State _____

YOUR MONEY BACK IF NOT COMPLETELY DELIGHTED!

The Insult That Turned a "CHUMP" Into a CHAMP

LOOK, JOE, LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN MAKE IT RING, TOO
AW, COME ON LET'S SEE THE REST OF THE "FAIR"!
HEY, SUGAR. WHY DON'T YOU QUIT THAT HUMAN SKELETON AND GET A REAL MAN!
SEE HERE, YOU BETTER SHUT UP OR I'LL---
YOU'LL WHAT— YOU POOR CHUMP
OH, JOE, WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO GROW UP AND BE A MAN!
DOGGONE! I'M FED UP WITH BEING A WEAKLING—I'LL GET CHARLES ATLAS'S FREE BOOK AND FIND OUT WHAT HE CAN DO FOR ME!
GOLLY, ATLAS BUILDS MUSCLES FAST! JUST WATCH MY SMOKE NOW!
LATER
ONE HAND IS AS GOOD AS TWO WHEN YOU'RE AN ATLAS CHAMP
THERE GOES THE BELL— JOE, YOU'RE WONDERFUL
OUT OF THE WAY SMALL-FRY, MAKE WAY FOR A MAN!
O-OH, JOE, YOU'RE MORE THAN THAT—YOU'RE A HE-MAN NOW!

Charles Atlas

—actual photo of the man who holds the title, "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man."

I Can Make YOU a New Man, Too in Only 15 Minutes a Day!

HAVE YOU ever felt like Joe—absolutely fed up with having bigger, huskier fellows "push you around"? If you have, then give me just 15 minutes a day! I'LL PROVE you can have a body you'll be proud of, packed with red-blooded vitality!

"Dynamic Tension." That's the secret! That's how I changed myself from a scrawny, 97-pound weakling to winner of the title, "World's Most Perfectly Developed Man."

"Dynamic Tension" Does It!

Using *"Dynamic Tension"* only 15 minutes a day, in the privacy of your own room, you quickly begin to put on muscle, increase your chest size, broaden your back, fill out your arms and legs. This easy, NATURAL method will make you a finer specimen of REAL MANHOOD than you ever dreamed you could be!

You Get Results FAST

Almost before you realize it, you will notice a general "toning up" of your entire system! You will have more pep, bright eyes, clear head, real spring and zip in your step! You get sledge-hammer fists, a battering ram punch—chest and back muscles so big they almost split your coat seams—ridges of solid stomach muscle—mighty legs that never get tired. You're a New Man!

FREE...My 32-Page Illustrated Book

Not $1.00 or 10¢ — But FREE

Send NOW for my famous book, "Everlasting Health and Strength." 32 pages, packed with photographs, valuable advice. Shows what *Dynamic Tension* can do; answers vital questions. Book is a real prize for any fellow who wants a better build. Yet I'll send you a copy absolutely FREE. It may change your whole life. Rush coupon to me personally: **CHARLES ATLAS, Dept. 60C, 115 East 23rd St., New York 10, N. Y.**

CHARLES ATLAS, Dept. 60 C
115 East 23rd St., New York 10, N. Y.

Send me—absolutely FREE—a copy of your famous book, *"Everlasting Health and Strength"*—32 pages, crammed with actual photographs, answers to vital health questions, and valuable advice. This book is mine to keep, and sending for it does not obligate me in any way.

Name_____ Age_____
(Please print or write plainly)

Address_____

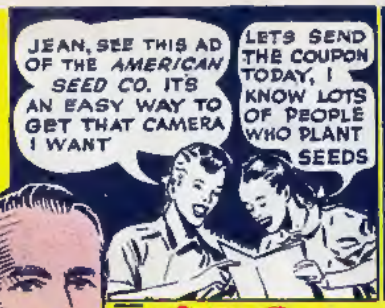
City_____ Zone No. *(if any)* _____ State_____

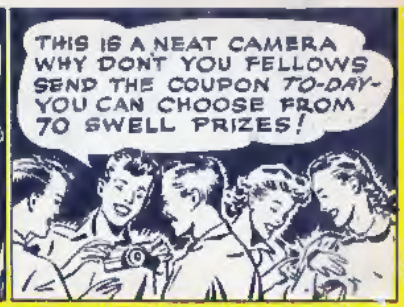
☐ *If under 16 years of age check here for Booklet A.*

GET PRIZES...MAKE MONEY

I want to give you your choice of a walkie talkie, an archery set, new golden trumpet, any of the 70 BIG PRIZES in my 28-page catalog. Many prizes are given without cost, for selling just one order of 48 packs of Vegetable and Flower Seeds at 10c per pack.

NEW, GOLDEN TRUMPET. GIVEN FOR SELLING ONE ORDER.


JEAN, SEE THIS AD OF THE AMERICAN SEED CO. ITS AN EASY WAY TO GET THAT CAMERA I WANT
LETS SEND THE COUPON TODAY, I KNOW LOTS OF PEOPLE WHO PLANT SEEDS



"Uncle" Harry Bard, the man who has been helping boys and girls earn PRIZES and extra cash for 35 years.

I'll Give You a Watch, Air Rifle, Uke, Camera or Any of My 70 BIG PRIZES

Just for Selling American Seeds to your Family, Friends and Neighbors

BE FIRST IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Everybody wants American Seeds—they're fresh and ready to grow. You'll sell them quickly, to your family, friends and neighbors and get your prize at once.

Thousands of boys and girls have been earning prizes this easy way for 35 years. Paste coupon on postcard or mail in envelope for your order of American Seeds. When sold, send us the money and choose your prize. Or, keep $1.60 in cash for each 48-pack order you sell. *SEND NO MONEY. I TRUST YOU.*

AMERICAN SEED CO.
Dept. 406, Lancaster, Pa.

MAIL THIS COUPON *Today*

AMERICAN SEED CO.
Dept. 406, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Please send me your BIG PRIZE BOOK and one order of 48 packs of Vegetable and Flower Seeds. I will resell them at 10c a pack, send you the money, and choose my prize.

Name_____

Address_____

Town_____

State_____

Famous Ben Pearson make. Has a 54-inch hardwood bow, 4 feathered arrows, target face, instructions. Sell one order of American Seeds plus 75c.

Camera has telescopic sight and fixed focus. Comes complete with carrying case. Sell one order

BOYS! GIRLS! WRIST WATCHES

Gold-plated Girl's Bracelet Watch. Sell one order plus $2.50. Boy's Radium Dial Watch. Sell one order plus $1.50

Attach wings, light fuse, away it goes. Flies 500 feet high. Given for selling just one order

EXTRA $1,500 IN GRAND PRIZE AWARDS

1st Prize $250 | 2nd Prize $150 | 3rd Prize $100

PLUS 20 DELUXE *Schwinn* BICYCLES

Everyone selling American Seeds is eligible to win GRAND PRIZE AWARDS. Remember, they are in addition to your regular prizes and cash! Coupon brings your first order and complete facts! SEND NO MONEY—we trust you. Paste coupon on postcard or mail in envelope today.

Both given for one order plus 50c.

Available in Red, Green, Navy Blue or Brown Sell one order

JUNIOR SPORTS KIT

Complete kit for younger boys and girls. Basketball, baseball, football, whistle! Sell one order

Remco's complete 2-way talking system. Just string out the wire—start talking. No batteries needed. Sell one order of American Seeds.

HEY FELLOWS!
DAISY'S RED RYDER COWBOY CARBINE
A fast-shooting 800 shot Air Rifle. Sell one order plus $2.00.

MAIL THIS COUPON . . . SELL AMERICAN SEEDS AND EARN PRIZES LIKE THESE